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THE TIMES

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Why we need the buzz of adventure
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30p
EVERY WEEKDAY

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY: Secret plan to ban French wine PLUS Weekend sport and television

Major the peacemaker becomes Companion of Honour

By **ROLAND WATSON**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR today receives unprecedented recognition for his role as peacemaker in Northern Ireland by being made a Companion of Honour.

Nigel Hawkes, science editor of *The Times*, is today appointed CBE in recognition of his services to newspapers and science. "I am delighted if embarrassed," said Mr Hawkes, 55, who has been writing for the newspaper for eight years. "It's possibly because the Government is very interested in the public understanding of science. I try to write about results and explain what has been found. I find it interesting and exciting and I think readers do too."



Scottish bandleader **Jimmy Shand** and **Frank Williams** of motor-racing. **Maureen Lipman**, **Lenny Henry** and **Roger Moore** are all appointed CBE, while *The Full Monty* star **Robert Carlyle**

on individuality and cult heroes. **Stuart Pearce**, the punk rock-loving footballer, **Prince Naseem Hamed**, the flamboyant World Boxing Organisation feather-weight champion, and **Jimmy White**, the snooker player who has lost five World Championship finals in a row, all become MBEs. So do the athlete **Denise Lewis** and the cricketer **Angus Fraser**.

The vast majority of the more than 600 MBEs were given with public support and 43 per cent of all the recipients were nominated by members of the public. They included **Gloria Birnba**, a Covent Garden waitress, for services to tourism, and **Ralph Lee**, a 95-year-old retired den-

ist, for more than 60 years and half a million miles of dedicated caravaning which took him into the Arctic Circle, behind the Iron Curtain and across the Channel 74 times.

Mr Major's appointment as a Companion of Honour is the first such recognition of a Prime Minister's peacetime achievements by his successor. **Downing Street** said that the award — one of a dozen related to the Good Friday agreement — reflected Mr Blair's recognition that without Mr Major's "vision" in starting the process, the settlement may never have come about.

talks are also honoured: **General John de Chastelain**, who now heads the decommissioning body, also becomes a CH; Senator **George Mitchell** receives the honorary title **Knight Grand Cross of the British Empire**, and the former **British Prime Minister** **Harri Holkeri**, becomes an honorary **KBE**. **Ronnie Flanagan**, the **RUC Chief Constable**, and **Reg Empey**, of the **Unionists' negotiating team**, are knighted. Honours to members of the **Nationalist community** were offered and rejected.

List in full, pages 8, 9
Business honours, page 27
Sporting honours, page 52

Deaths in avalanche followed danger warning

By **GILLIAN HARRIS AND RICHARD DUCE**

TRAGEDY was launched into an avalanche which claimed four lives in the incident on Scotland's Ben Nevis in 27 years.

Two other friends and their mountain guide survived by surviving both the avalanche and 16 hours buried under 3ft of snow on the 4,000ft peak Aonach Mor. The party, led by an experienced guide, had taken to the mountain in spite of a category three avalanche alert — on a scale of five — issued from Aviemore.

John Ray, Emma's father, learned at 10am yesterday that his daughter had died along with the boy she first met at the age of 15. He said: "In all this tragedy I suppose the one comfort is that they died together and did not leave the other to cope on their own."

The party had been reported missing 12 hours after the avalanche, when they failed to return to their base, hitherto on the Caledonian Canal.

Nine of the party had been on a cycling tour while the fatal six-strong party with climbing experience — Emma Ray had recently completed the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike — decided to go on a two-day mountaineering course. They were barely an hour into the course when disaster struck.

Mr Wilde, a mountain guide and member of the British Association of Ski Instructors, was teaching them survival techniques and it is believed that he had climbed ahead of the group to test the snow before embarking on an exercise using ice picks, when the avalanche knocked him over.



Paul Hopkins and Emma Ray, two of the childhood sweethearts killed in the Ben Nevis avalanche yesterday

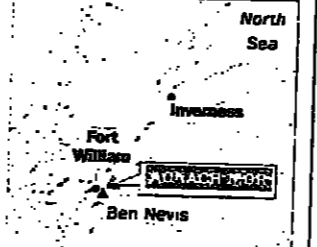
Relative of the dead and injured learnt of the tragedy after seeing reports of the avalanche on early news bulletins. "Daphne Lewis telephoned police at Fort William for any news about her son."

After asking who I was an officer asked me to hold on. He went away and then came back to ask if I had anyone with me before he broke the news. I just keep thinking Mat-

thew is away and on Sunday he'll breeze back to say what a lovely time he has had."

Mr Ray told how his daughter, a buyer with Marks & Spencer and Mr Hopkins, who worked for British Telecom, had a shared love of adventure and his daughter was also a children's swimming instructor. "They were both full of life. They had talked about marriage, but never seemed to get round to it."

Mr Ray refused to blame Mr Wilde, saying: "He was an expert guide and very highly thought of. It was just one of those tragic things. They were all fun loving and excited about going on to the mountain."



Buried 16 hours, page 6

Yemenis used captives as human shields

By **DANIEL MCGRORY IN ADEN AND STEPHEN FARRELL**

FREED British hostages in Yemen told yesterday how they were used as human shields during the bungled raid on their kidnappers' mountain hideout in which three Britons and an Australian tourist died.

The accounts of a two-hour gun battle between security forces and terrorists contradicted Yemeni claims that they moved in only after the terrorists began killing some of the 16 captives.

Some of the survivors described how the youngest of the group, **Ruth Williamson**, was killed in cold blood by one of the abductors, believed to be from the terrorist group **Islamic Jihad**, as he tried to escape.

Professor **Eric Firkins**, of Croydon, southeast London, said: "She had a gun put to her neck and was made to walk in front of the kidnapper. She must have been scared, but she was so brave and dignified. After her murderer shot her in the back, he just ran away."

Forced to stand in the path of the army's fire, another survivor, **Laurence Whitehouse**, cried as he described seeing his wife **Margaret** shot dead

ten feet from him as she tried to help one of the wounded.

The dead Britons were Mrs **Whitehouse**, 52, a primary school teacher; Ms **Williamson**, 34, from Edinburgh; and Dr **Peter Rowe**, 60, a Canadian-born university mathematics lecturer from Durham. The dead Australian was **Andrew Colin Thirsk**, 35, from Sydney.

Dr Rowe's wife **Claire** **Martinson**, 45, is recovering from surgery to a shoulder wound at the al-Jamhuriya Hospital in Aden where **Margaret Thompson**, an American, also had surgery for a pelvis wound.

Still shaken, the uninjured were recovering in an Aden hotel as they described their ordeal at the kidnappers' hideout, 150 miles east of Aden.

They were split into two groups and made to stand on open ground with their hands up as the army unit closed in.

Sue Mamocks, 43, a religious studies teacher from Ramsgate, Kent, confirmed that the members of the group heard shooting more than an hour before the first hostage was killed. She said: "You cannot blame the Yemeni Govern-

Continued on page 3, col 6

Fatherhood takes on new meaning for sperm donor

FROM **ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW**

WHEN Vladimir Gusiyevo walked his dog each morning, he took a shine to a young woman he saw taking her small son to nursery. They got talking, and within months the three were living together.

Then friends began to comment on how little **Misha** was the spitting image of his new father, and the local optometrist remarked that the boy had inherited his minor eye condition. Their words set Mr Gusiyevo's mind racing — and apparently led to the discovery that he had fathered the child when he donated sperm at the local fertility clinic in the town of Yaroslavl.

The story, which is the talk of Moscow, is reported in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, newspaper and has astonished the medical profession, which considered the likelihood of such an eventuality to be vanishingly small. "Of course it is possible, especially in a small town like Yaroslavl," says **Anna**

Serikova of the Ministry of Health. Both mother and father come from the town, whose single fertility clinic has been creating test-tube babies since 1986.

Mr Gusiyevo (a pseudonym the newspaper uses to protect the couple) had donated sperm in January 1992 after over-hearing some of his poorly paid engineering colleagues laughing over a newspaper article on the subject.

He was approved as a donor and received the equivalent of a quarter of his month's pay (about £7) for his efforts.

Irina Gusiyevo approached the agency later that year, and her son was born in August 1993.

Two years later, Mr Gusiyevo bought a flat on Freedom Street in the heart of the town and struck up a friendship with the young divorcee he had seen on his morning walks. When she and her son moved in with him, he be-

lieved the boy to be the product of her first marriage.

But his friends' comments set him thinking and he began comparing photographs of himself as a child with his girlfriend's son. Eventually, he felt compelled to ask her about Misha's father. Irina confessed that her first husband had been impotent, that he had reluctantly agreed to her having artificial insemination and that he had left her soon after the child was born.

The fertility clinic refused to confirm the couple's suspicions on the grounds of patient confidentiality, so they travelled to Moscow with young Misha where they say they paid 4,000 roubles for the genetic fingerprinting that provided them with proof.

The couple swiftly married, but Mr Gusiyevo is unable to adopt his son without the permission of the boy's officially registered father — and he has disappeared.

Iraqis fire on RAF Tornados

FROM **IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON**

IRAQ fired six to eight surface-to-air missiles at an RAF Tornado yesterday, prompting a substantial response from American fighters in the southern no-fly zone.

All the British and American aircraft, some 20 in all, returned undamaged to their bases in neighbouring states.

The episode was the second appearance this week by President **Saddam Hussein's** mobile missile launchers, which had been kept hidden during the four-day bombing assault of Operation Desert Fox.

According to American television reports, **Saddam** is using 19 missile batteries against aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones.

Yesterday's clash began with an RAF crew reporting the missile launchers after they had apparently been targeted by Iraqi radar north-west of **Talil**. The British plane took evasive action while two American aircraft fired **Harm** anti-radar missiles at the site.

They were followed by four American F16s each of which dropped two 500lb laser-guided bombs on the missile battery. Bomb damage was still being assessed last night.

The missiles were suspected of being Soviet-vintage SA-6s with a medium range of 33,000ft that could put them within striking distance of the normal altitudes flown by the patrols in the no-fly zones.

Iraq said that US aircraft fire killed a farmer and wounded two other civilians, and claimed that Iraq had in turn "almost certainly shot down one of the planes". But the Pentagon said it had no indication that the Iraqi missile crew had been anywhere near successful in getting close to any allied aircraft.

President **Clinton** was briefed on yesterday's incident but made no public comment before flying to a South Carolina resort for three days of golf and seminars at the **Renais-sance** Weekend gathering.

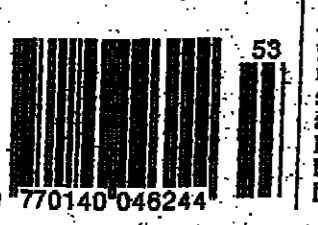
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Lib Dems scotch hopes of coalition with SNP

Labour will be most likely partner in Scottish parliament, reports Jason Allardyce

LIBERAL Democrats last night seemed to kill off the prospect of a Scottish parliament coalition with nationalists.

The Lib Dem leadership said that party members, many of whom favour links with the Scottish nationalists, will not be allowed to decide with which party to ally themselves to form a coalition.

The ruling means the Lib Dems will almost certainly form a government in Scotland with Labour, mirroring the close relationship between the parties in Westminster.

Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, is convinced that

grassroots Lib Dem activists would prefer to form a government with the SNP. He has been banking on the prospect of them having a major say in any deal because the Lib Dem leadership is largely hostile to the nationalist cause.

The leadership believes now is not the time for further constitutional upheaval as devolution delivers the first Scottish parliament in 300 years. A Scottish Lib Dem spokesman said that ordinary party members would be consulted, probably

over the telephone, after the election which is expected to result in no single party winning overall control.

However, he made it clear that the consultation would be an "education process as much as a listening process". He added: "The new members of the Scottish parliament doing the negotiations are the people we have to trust and if they convince people that this or that is the best option for Scotland then our members should go along with that."

The spokesman said that party

members, many of whom are suspicious of Labour, are unlikely to get the chance to vote on who they believe the Lib Dems should work with. He said the final say would rest with the new team of MPs and in particular Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, as the party's most senior elected representatives.

"The members of the Scottish parliament are the people voters voted for and they will have the ultimate responsibility. It would be breaking up democracy if the party is to have

control rather than the MPs." Officially, Mr Wallace, who has a closer relationship with Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary and Scottish Labour leader, than with Mr Salmond, is still ruling nothing in and nothing out of coalition talks.

He has made it clear, however, that he will not work with the nationalists if they insist on sticking with their commitment to hold a referendum on Scottish independence in the first term of the new parliament. He has described the prospect of

another referendum as needless "constitutional navel gazing". Despite his stance, a senior Lib Dem source said yesterday that most party members would support an independence referendum as a legitimate exercise in democracy.

"If you asked a typical Liberal Democrat if he was in favour of a referendum he would probably say yes, that is fair enough," he said. The Lib Dems have also decided to bring in professional negotiators to train the team of new MPs who will take part in coalition talks with other parties within a month of the election in May.

NEWS IN BRIEF New year may end in £250m lottery

A National Lottery "super draw" designed to create dozens of millionaires on the final day of 1999 is being planned by the organisers. Camelot. The prize fund is expected to be about £250 million, with tickets on sale up to six months before a series of draws on the day. It would need the approval of ministers and the Lottery Regulator. A bus driver has had two large wins in four months. Derek Moore, 52, from Draxfield, near Sheffield, picked up £146,964 as his share of a syndicate win, then a further £74,630 last week when he and his new wife, Elaine, had five numbers plus the bonus.

Suspects give up

Two men being hunted by the IRA over the death of a child gave themselves up to police in Belfast yesterday. The men, in their thirties, had been on the run from the terrorists and the police after stealing a taxi and knocking down Eamon Armstrong, 7, in West Belfast on Tuesday. The men fled after hitting the child, his mother, Paula, 27, and Martin Dorman, 24.

Meningitis inquiry

Croydon Health Authority has started an investigation after Lauren Burns, aged nine months, died from meningitis less than 48 hours after she was allegedly sent home from hospital on December 16. Her mother, Sarah, 22, a nursery nurse of Norbury, southwest London, has complained to the authority and the Mayday Hospital, where her daughter was treated.

Police clean-up

A network of regional anti-corruption squads is being planned by chief constables as part of a national campaign against crooked officers. Big urban forces will be expected to have enough manpower to form their own permanent squads such as CIB3, being run by Scotland Yard. Small rural and provincial forces would collaborate, and second detectives to joint teams.

Bike victim

An 86-year-old man died after being knocked down by a 13-year-old boy riding a mountain bike. The boy was pedalling through a bus station in Rotherham when he collided with the pensioner, who, police said, appeared to have stepped out from a queue. The man, who has not been named, was taken to hospital suffering from head injuries, but died later.

Prescott puts left-wing ideals centre-stage

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT emphasised the importance of traditional Labour values yesterday, in remarks seized on by leftwingers to demand a change of direction from the Government after the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

MPs drew on the Deputy Prime Minister's comments to urge Tony Blair to make such values central to policy-making once more. It showed that some ministers and MPs are prepared to use the former Trade Secretary's departure to fight for the soul of the Government — and presented the Prime Minister, currently on holiday in the Seychelles, with the prospect of returning to a power struggle in the Cabinet.

Using language which unsettled Downing Street, Mr Prescott appeared to challenge the free-market tone of Mr Mandelson's White Paper on competitiveness by saying there remained an argument for "industrial reorganisation". He emphasised his close working relationship with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, saying they had agreed that "public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the traditional Keynesian way".

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Prescott's remarks should not be seen as changing government policy. Number 10 had not been told in advance of the contents of the interview, in yesterday's *Independent* newspaper, which led to a hurried round of telephone calls on Tuesday night between officials and Mr Prescott's office. The Treasury declined to comment.

Mr Prescott's friends insisted that he was not trying to exploit his time in the limelight while Mr Blair was abroad. They said that his reference to Keynesianism was nothing more than support for Mr Brown's decision not to cut the spending levels set for the next three years in the face of the global economic downturn.

But one well-placed source suggested that Mr Prescott's comments served to reassert his influence in government and remind the Labour Party at large that the Government was more than about just Mr Mandelson. "John is one of the three big players of the Government. Peter was only in the Cabinet for four months."

Another friend of the Deputy Prime Minister said his comments were as much about demonstrating that he re-

mained the "solid spine" of the party.

But MPs read Mr Prescott's comments as a signal to open a debate about direction of the Government. Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock, said they would be welcomed by those on the Left. "Many of them think their views have been rather neglected," he told Radio 4's *The World At One*.

"They have felt somewhat uncomfortable about the style and substance of recent years." Downing Street referred to Mr Blair's weekend interview with the BBC in which he emphasised that the new Labour project would continue. Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House told the radio programme that Mr Prescott would be "appalled" if his comments were interpreted as a split in the Cabinet.

Frank Field, the former Minister for Welfare Reform, yesterday called on Mr Blair to end the "excesses and obscurities" of behind-the-scenes briefing. On BBC Radio 2, Mr Field told Jimmy Young that Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary, had been the source of damning briefings against him during and after his time in government.



Diane Blood cuddles her son, Liam. She was allowed to take him home on Christmas Eve after his premature birth

Diane Blood's joy to hold son

By SUE LAPPERMAN

DIANE BLOOD yesterday described her joy at giving birth to a son after a three-year legal battle to conceive from her dead husband's sperm.

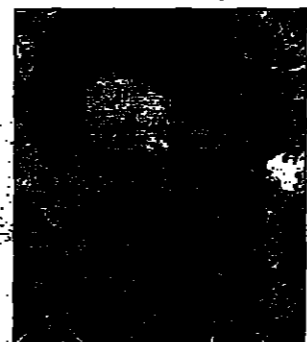
Speaking publicly for the first time since taking her son home from hospital, she said: "It's just wonderful to have Liam here, to hold him and to

cuddle him. I don't know how to describe the feeling. I hadn't expected to get him home for Christmas so that was a wonderful Christmas present."

Liam was allowed to go home with his mother late on Christmas Eve after spending almost two weeks in the special care unit at Jessop Hospital for Women in Sheffield.

Mrs Blood, 32, said that she and Liam spent a peaceful Christmas at their home in Worksop, Nottinghamshire. She said she wanted to thank supporters and well-wishers who flooded the hospital with hundreds of messages after the birth of Liam on December 11, one month premature and weighing 5lb 13oz. She said: "It just brought tears to my eyes that so many people wanted to congratulate me."

Liam's birth ended a contro-



Stephen Blood: died from meningitis

versial legal battle that started when Mrs Blood persuaded doctors to remove sperm from her husband Stephen's body while he was on a life-support machine after contracting meningitis. He died when the machine was switched off. But the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority ob-

jected to the release of the sperm from storage because Mr Blood had been unable to give written consent.

In February last year the Court of Appeal decided under European law that Mrs Blood had the right to use the sperm and a Belgian clinic carried out the insemination. She said: "I was fighting for something that Stephen and I wanted and I believe that was right and I still believe that that was right."

Mrs Blood, an advertising executive who plans to work from home, said that all she wanted from the new year was to spend it with her son — and for it to be uneventful and normal.

Although Mrs Blood is disappointed that her late husband's name is not on Liam's birth certificate, after the trauma of one legal battle she said she was in no hurry to begin another over that issue.

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EUROPE'S BEST SELLING DEHUMIDIFIERS **Ebac**

Wet and windy start to 1999

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE threat of gale-force winds and heavy rain in parts of Britain brought warnings last night of hazardous driving conditions on New Year's Eve.

The worst-affected areas are expected to be South-West England, Wales and Scotland, with strong winds spreading from Ireland across much of Britain.

Although the weather is mild for the time of year, heavy rain is likely to mar Britain's biggest new-year celebration, in Edinburgh, where 250,000 are expected to crowd into the city centre. Heavy showers are likely to be widespread on New Year's Day, although forecasters predict sunny periods over much of England.

For more than 500,000 Britons, the vagaries of the weather at home will be irrelevant, as they head abroad to celebrate the new year.

Most holidaymakers headed for the sun or ski-slopes immediately before and after Christmas but more than 100,000 will fly abroad today.

The most popular winter destinations for sun-seekers are mainland Spain, the Canary Islands and Florida, but short-breaks to Amsterdam, Dublin and Paris have also been heavily booked. Many skiers joining the winter exodus were heading to Austria, France, Italy and America.

Party cities, page 10
Forecast, page 26

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		Inclusive of loyalty bonus		
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'My wife never stood a chance. As she was shot, she said: Bless me'

Daniel McGrory in Aden hears the shaken survivors remembering the quiet courage of the victims on an adventure holiday that ended in a hail of gunfire

MACHINEGUN fire was ricocheting around the desert hideout as Laurence Whitehouse saw his wife, Margaret, die bravely trying to nurse a fellow hostage.

Kidnappers were screaming for the hostages to stand still and serve as human shields, even though hundreds of Yemeni troops were firing at them. Mr Whitehouse had a gun pressed into his neck and was powerless to help as his 54-year-old wife, a primary school teacher, refused to leave a wounded man.

"One of the group, Andrew, was hit in the thigh and Margaret was behind him and immediately pressed her handkerchief into the wound." Mr Whitehouse, also 54, said yesterday. "A kidnapper wanted Margaret to protect him, but she kept trying to help Andrew. She was kneeling beside him, talking to him and he was hit again."

"Then a bullet caught her in the leg and she said, 'Bless me' which is the phrase she uses when she is cross, like when she misses a tennis shot."

"I tried to move to her, but another kidnapper clung on to me and kept the machinegun dug into my neck. Then I saw a bullet hit Margaret in the head. She was dead the instant it hit her. She never stood a chance," he said, with tears running down his sun-scoured cheeks.

"They wouldn't let me go to her and she just lay there, bleeding in the dirt."

Mr Whitehouse, a sixth-form teacher from Hook, Hampshire, recalled the panic as the rescue operation moved to within yards of where the hostages and their Islamic abductors were cowering behind an Ibin parapet on the top of a ridge of sand.

"We were made to carry the terrorists' bazookas and machine-guns. They were so incompetent. One who was injured tried to load his mortar unsuccessfully then threw it away and started firing, using me as a shield. He just had a small pistol left and a Yemeni tribal knife in his belt. I grabbed the hand that was holding the revolver and I twisted it round and the gun went off."

"My shirt has two holes in it where the bullets passed through. I was very lucky. Another bullet grazed my cheek," he said, fingering the vivid purple bruise on his face.

"I held on to this terrorist as what I took to be the Yemeni Army rushed up to us. I was not going to let that gunman go after what happened to Margaret."

He watched as troops arrested the man, then he helped them gently to lift his wife's body and the fatally wounded Australian tourist on to a van for the 240 kilometre drive towards Aden. "Andrew would have died en route even if medical help was available, he had lost so much blood," he said.

Mrs Whitehouse had been a primary school teacher for 31 years. Her husband said she was "adored by generations of children and I cannot contemplate life without her."

He was comforted by other survivors as they recovered in a seafloor hotel in Aden, trying to piece together the bloody two-hour rescue mission when they were split up by their abductors.

Eric Firkins, 55, a teacher from Cambridge Tutorial College, saw the Whitehouses and three others being led away. His group of 11 were then told to stand up. He recalled: "I thought we were going to be executed."

"We were told to stand with our hands in the air, back to back. The kidnappers were behind us and were firing over the top of us." Suddenly one of the gang grabbed the youngest of the tour party, Ruth Williamson, around the neck and stuck a gun in her back. "She looked scared, but she was so dignified, so courageous. She was talking to him softly as he made her walk slowly forward into the hail of fire coming from the army, but with this gun pointing at her. Then he just shot her in the back and ran."

"She was such a sweet, gentle, companionable girl," he said, burying his face in his hands. "She was lying there on her back. Her face was as white as a sheet. She was executed in cold blood and shown no mercy."

"The rest of the group dived for cover behind a narrow parapet of sand to escape the ferocity of the crossfire."

"I felt this is what the trenches in the First World War must have been like," Mr Firkins said. "With-

out thinking, we had grabbed on to each other and were holding hands and praying."

"I was sure we were going to die. You couldn't tell who was shooting. There were just explosions and flashes of gunfire everywhere."

Lying alongside him in the dirt, Brian Smith, 52, a postal worker from Peterborough, saw two others in their tour party gunned down. "Peter Rowe was a couple of yards away from me. He was trying to keep hold of his wife's hand."

Claire Marston looked around at her partner as the two of them were scythed down in a volley of automatic fire. "Peter was lying on his back. There was blood coming from his mouth, and he was obviously dead. I couldn't tell who shot her. Claire had been hit in the shoulder and arm and there was a lot of blood, but she didn't bother about her injuries and just kept talking to me."

Mr Smith was sitting beside Mrs Whitehouse, who was to die 26 hours later. "At that stage we were all surprisingly calm. The one kidnapper who spoke English said: 'You won't be harmed. They made no threats.'"

The convoy was driven 8km along the highway and then cut across the desert over volcanic rock and boulders for a further 11km. The disbelieving tourists were then made to march for a kilometre in silence until they reached the bluff of a jutting rock and were told to sit in the shade on blankets provided by their captors.

After an hour, the men in the group were led individually to the top of the cliff, where they were questioned by the gang leaders, who kept their faces covered.

"When they took the first man away, I did think we were going to be executed, but all they wanted to know was our names, our jobs and why we were in Yemen," Mr Smith said.

"I told them I loved their architecture and culture and they seemed calm. They shared their food with us. One said they were Mujahidin, but then strangely added that they had nothing to do with the IRA and we talked about the problems in Ireland for a while."

The men were eventually allowed to rejoin the women. There was no panic even then. We were marched back to where the vehicles were parked, given our sleeping bags and told to rest though I was too nervous to sleep.

"I shared some boiled mutton and gravy and I joked with the leader of the kidnappers that I would help him to improve his English. Most of us whispered that we thought we would be there for weeks, as we knew that had been the pattern for previous kidnappings. We thought that only businessmen or politicians were abducted, not tourists, and we were comforted when someone mentioned that no one had been killed."

The kidnappers stood guard over them all night until 5.30am, when they were given a breakfast of dates and marched back towards the bluff. This time they were left under a clump of trees, which did little to shade them from the 85F heat.

"One kidnapper told me that they had six friends in prison and we were to be exchanged for them," Mr Smith said. "I was scared then, as usually ransom demands are just for better street lights in their village or new vehicles."

The group were murmuring their concern about suffering sunstroke when, just before 11am, Mr Smith said that he heard gunfire in the distance.

"The kidnappers shouted at us to move quickly away. There was firing all the time, but it was 45 min-

utes before I saw any figures in the distance shooting at us."

It was not until last night that the survivors were told of the Yemeni security authorities' claim that they launched their rescue mission after the kidnappers started killing their hostages.

Mr Smith said: "I don't condemn them for what they did. They wanted to rescue us. They doubtless knew things we didn't, but I was surprised they attacked so soon."

"We had only been hostages for a day. But we were all alive when we heard the first shots, though we couldn't say who was firing at who."

Another survivor, Sue Mattocks, 43, a religious studies teacher from Ramsgate, Kent, thought the firing

began two hours before she saw the first hostage executed.

She remembers seeing the kidnappers using a satellite telephone and a laptop computer during their captivity, "so we knew they were not just penniless tribesmen looking for money for our ransom."

She added: "I remember that, when the firing and all the explosions started, I could not imagine what it would feel like to be shot and to die."

"You cannot blame the Government for the deaths. If the gunmen had not kidnapped us, then no one would have been killed."

"I do not understand the kidnappers, but even after what they have done to us, I still cannot hate them."



Victim: Margaret Whitehouse, above right, in a school picture



Survivor: Laurence Whitehouse yesterday. "I cannot contemplate life without Margaret," he said

Friends tell of grief for a joker and popular teacher

FRIENDS and relatives of Ruth Williamson, the youngest hostage victim, recalled her yesterday as a practical joker with the travel bug.

Her uncle, Donald Main, said in a statement: "Our families have been devastated by the death of Ruth and particularly by the terrifying experience of the kidnapping and ending in the brutal killing."

"She was a wonderful person and had a marvellous sense of humour."

Victims were travellers with a sense of adventure, says Michael Harvey

of humour and, with more free time in the past few years, had begun to enjoy overseas travel, particularly to developing countries.

"We have many happy memories of Ruth and it is those that will endure in our minds. We have great sympathy for the other members of the tour group."

Dr Rowe's unconventional style endeared him to generations of students. The Canadian-born lecturer, who moved to Britain in the 1960s, had an "indomitable sense of adventure", according to Professor David Fairlie, Professor of Applied Mathematics at Durham.

He spent two years teaching maths in Ghana before joining the university in 1964. "Eccentric" would be too strong a word, but he did his own thing," Professor Fairlie said. "He loved travel and went abroad a lot."

The academic had journeyed through Africa, Nepal and parts of the Himalayas. Professor Michael Prestwick, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the university, said: "He was well known to generations of students, an absolutely dedicated teacher."

Dr Rowe would have been aware of the dangers of Yemen, but I don't think it would have concerned him too much. He had perhaps a fatalistic approach to life."

Dr Rowe's brother-in-law, Stephen Sunnucks, said from his home in Kent: "Peter loved the outdoor life. They never took stupid risks, but they would go canoeing in Canada, they loved hiking and just being outdoors."



Ruth Williamson and Peter Rowe: both loved to travel

Captives were used as shields

Continued from page 1

Last night the previously unknown Islamist group, the Islamic Army of Aden-Abyan, issued a statement in Dubai attacking the Yemeni troops of attacking without warning. It said: "The Government could not tolerate a group of young Yemenis demanding that the aggression against Iraq be halted and that the British and US forces be chased out of the Arabian Peninsula."

More than 100 Westerners have been taken hostage in Yemen since 1992, but most have been released peacefully by tribes seeking improvements in living standards.

Last night Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office Minister, was seeking an explanation of the events.

Yemeni officials said that the kidnappers opened fire on the tourists first, forcing the army's hand. General Mohammad Saleh Turaiq, Aden's security chief, said: "The kidnappers began killing three hostages, starting with Margaret Whitehouse, and we had to intervene to save the others."

Officials say that Islamic Jihad, which has a mountain training camp in Abyan, was demanding the release of two leaders and protesting against

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said the figures appeared too good to be true.

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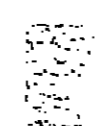
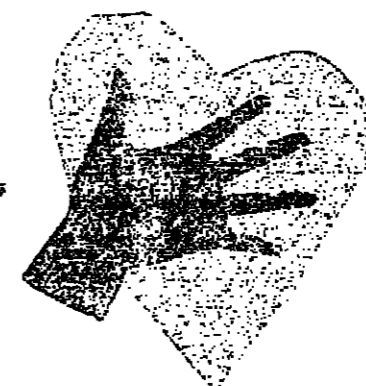
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...said the figures appeared too good to be true.

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

THE GREAT GETAWAY

Special travel issue of the magazine

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Six cities vie to be party capital of 1998

FOUR cities are throwing their first huge New Year's Eve celebrations in a dress rehearsal for the eve of the millennium. They are vying to become the 21st century's Edinburgh, which hosts one of the world's biggest parties with more than 250,000 revellers.

Newcastle has giant inflatables, Cardiff has lantern processions, Belfast has indie bands and visitors to Glasgow are invited "to enter 1999 with a Glasgow kiss", in a friendly rather than violent embrace.

Hogmanay in Edinburgh has snowballed in size since the organised event was started in 1993. It has grown so large that part of the city centre has been cordoned off for those in possession of one of 180,000 free passes. Inside there are bars, music, and bands from UB40 to The Pretenders. The four-day event costs £1.3 million, but earns an estimated £23 million in spin-off revenue for the city.

Next year the sponsors, Virgin, hope to take over the whole city centre and attract 500,000 revellers, 100,000 more than expected in New York's Times Square. "This Hogmanay is very much a dress rehearsal for next year," said a spokeswoman for the event. "We've had delegations

Competition is intense for the big New Year's Eve festivities, reports Helen Rumbelow

from all over Europe coming to see how we handle it."

One of the interested cities is Newcastle, where clubbers in Big Market are famously undeterred by freezing weather. However, New Year's Eve has been the quietest night of the year, said Kevan Jones, who chairs of the city council's development committee.

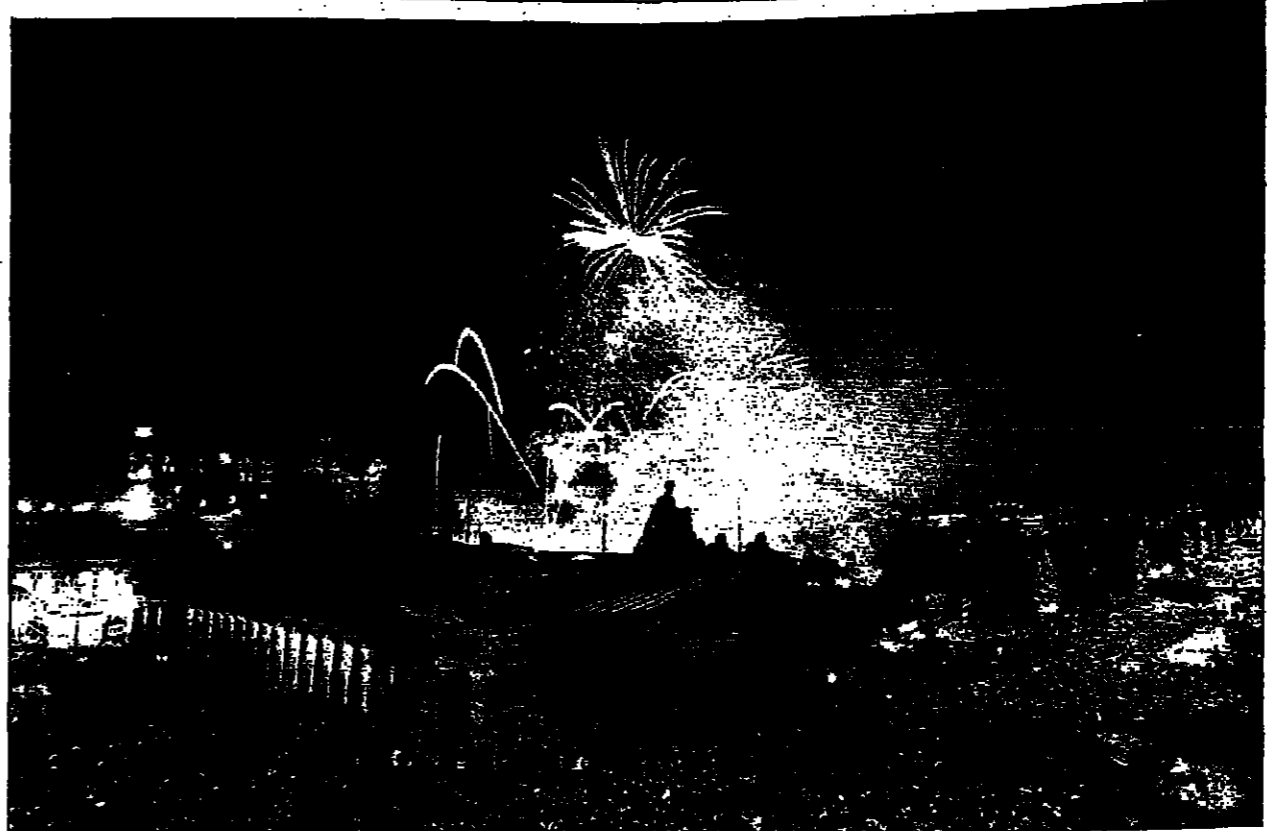
"Nothing happened. Pubs shut early or didn't open at all. We looked at Edinburgh and decided we could do a festive New Year's Eve too," he said. They decided to have a £16,000 party for 35,000 people with late licences to welcome 1999, as a public statement that

Newcastle was an international city and ready for the next millennium. They have enlisted a French street theatre company, Plasticiens Volants, to parade with large inflatable of bizarre creatures, including a huge owl-like bird, and a spider perched on Grey monument. "I don't quite know why a spider," said Mr Jones.

Glasgow's long-running rivalry with Edinburgh is now expressed in a battle of the parties. George Square and the Radio One Dance Party are hosting bands. There are outdoor bars, another free music stage, entertainers, and a hot air balloon, for an estimated 100,000 partygoers. "Glasgow is famous for being friendly," said a spokesman. "A Glasgow kiss is the big snog you're going to get at midnight."

Belfast has set up two free music stages featuring Ash and the Saw Doctors, with an estimated audience of 100,000. Cardiff is hosting a £70,000 celebration with lantern processions and bands, in the hope of attracting 20,000.

In London, Trafalgar Square attracts 100,000, but bans alcohol and has no entertainment. London's major event next New Year's Eve will be at the Millennium Dome, catering for just 10,000.



The crowd in Princes Street, Edinburgh, watches fireworks in the gardens behind the Royal Academy last New Year

Going clubbing on the grand scale

Arenas will host giant raves for thousands, writes Alex O'Connell

HUGE rave parties are to be held at arena venues tonight, with so-called "mega clubs" hosting thousands of guests each.

Several of the events will have more than 50 DJs under one roof and promoters have organised helicopters and private aircraft to ferry the most sought-after performers between cities.

The club company Cream is holding events at four cities: 3,100 partygoers will be at its club in Liverpool, where the company is based; and there will be 8,000 at the Manches-

ter Evening News Arena, and 5,000 at the Newcastle Telewest Arena. The promoters' first major show in the capital, at the London Arena, will attract 12,500 partygoers. It will cost £39 to spend up to 12 hours at the party in Docklands.

Cream's press spokeswoman, Gill Nightingale, said: "People want it to be the best night of the year and, with bigger clubs, the organisation is good and we can afford good headliners. We are hiring a 19-capacity private plane to take our DJs from London to Manchester and then from Manchester to Liverpool."

There will also be a big party in the capital tonight at Temptation at Alexandra Pal-

ace in North London. There will be three rooms, 12,500 guests and a line-up that includes New Order, Underworld and Radio 1 DJs. Other club nights include Freedom 1999 at Bagley's Studios in North London and World Dance at Three Mills Island Studios in East London.

Rory Hannah will be DJing at a drum and bass night at Labyrinth in The Pleasure Rooms, Tottenham, and is expected to pack the venue. Tickets are £15, and 30 DJs will be playing.

Cocobeeben, a 4,200-capacity club in Brighton, is one of the largest New Year's Eve venues on the South Coast.

In Edinburgh the four floors of the Traverse Theatre

is being transformed into three clubs, where some 900 people are expected to party Hogmanay away to fusion, funk, Latin soul and a ceilidh.

But some of those who run the smaller clubs claim that the big events are money-spinners that don't live up to the hype. Amy Lamé, who hosts the cosy South London club Duckie, said: "For most club promoters, tonight is just a licence to print money. Venue-owners can ask absurd amounts of money. We were offered a smelly railway arch in Vauxhall for £10,000 over New Year's Eve."

Adrian Webb, former host of the intimate West London club Smashing, said: "I don't really like big things at New Year, and there's nothing happening this year anyway. "It'll be being grown up and civilised and going out for a nice meal in Fytrouse Hill."

Healthy intentions have a habit of going wrong

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT a third of the population intend to make new year's resolutions and nearly three quarters of these good intentions are related to health.

Resolutions tend to be for the young, however. While 40 per cent of those aged between 15 and 35 will make one at the new year, only 25 per cent of those over 55 will bother.

The most popular resolution is to quit smoking, with 32 per cent promising to kick the habit. Desire to give up varies from region to region: while 53 per cent of Scots have apparently decided to quit, only 8 per cent in the West Country say they want to. Realistically

the chances of giving up smoking are poor, with only 15 per cent of those who said last year that they would quit managing to do so.

In an effort to increase the number who stop smoking, the Government is offering free nicotine-replacement therapy for poorer people.

The NOP survey among 997 adults found that, after smoking, the next most popular resolution is to diet, with 15 per cent promising to cut their calorie intake. If the past year is anything to go by, only 15 per cent of them will succeed.

Another 13 per cent have decided to do more exercise, but

only 4 per cent are likely to do so.

The survey also found 7 per cent are promising to drink less alcohol and 5 per cent say they will stop eating so much chocolate, but there are no figures for the success rate from these resolutions.

The survey found not all resolutions were inspired by healthier living standards. One person had resolved to stop biting her toenails.

In the Tyne Tees area 15 per cent said they were giving up swearing — although nobody across the border in Scotland said they were promising to stop using bad language.

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Vandals lay waste to church masterpieces

The ravages of time and crime are destroying Britain's stained-glass heritage, reports Dalya Alberge

HISTORIC stained-glass windows in churches throughout the country, many of which have already been damaged by the passage of centuries, face a more serious threat from vandals and burglars.

Last Christmas more than a dozen churches in the Tunbridge Wells area were broken into. In the past month several have been hit again. In many cases windows have been broken by bricks, in some — such as on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, where 12 windows were smashed — the damage has been done by vandals under the influence of drugs.

Maggi Vinson, of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, the Church of England insurers, said that, on average, a dozen Anglican churches were vandalised each day.

"Anglican churches make up only half the places of worship in the country, so it's pretty horrendous," she said.

Claims are costing the group about £4 million each year. Ms Vinson said that many stolen windows were being sold in Europe and beyond — one stained-glass panel was even found in a Tokyo restaurant. "They are being stolen to order," she said. "Churches are repositories of a lot of our national heritage, and it's going. It's a sad reflection on our society."

Keith Hill, who works with his wife, Judy, as stained-glass conservators, said: "It is so painful to see such damage. In some cases I have repaired

windows, then had to go back to repair my repairs."

Sarah Brown, a trustee of the Stained Glass Museum at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire, said that smashing a window was the most common way for burglars to enter locked churches.

"It is very depressing to see how much glass is destroyed," she said. "There is a whole range of malicious damage."

St James the Great church in East Malling, Kent, which boasts glass dating from the 14th to the 19th centuries — is among the many churches besieged both by vandals and environmental damage. The Rev Peter Mills, its vicar, said that the church's Victorian Corpus Christi windows had recently been vandalised.

"It's the third time in the three years that I've been here," he said. "Our church is extremely pretty and there is a record of it in the Domesday Book. There's been a church here since the turn of the millennium."

The vandals systematically smashed their way through seven separate areas of the church, apparently using a broken clay tile. Previous attacks have involved bricks and part of a tombstone.

"They are destroying their own heritage, which is so terribly sad," Mr Mills said. "At the end of the day, the architecture is not just for the people who worship there but the village as well. The heritage we



A damaged window at St James, East Malling

have in this country is being destroyed for no apparent reason."

Thousands of pounds will need to be found to cover the cost of repairs.

The church's medieval glass is also being damaged by condensation and wet weather, and sections of it have begun falling out. When water is absorbed by the glass, micro-or-

ganisms thrive on the combination of damp and the sun, and algae and lichen begin to grow on the surface. The resulting acids cause serious damage and images such as that of The Marriage of the Virgin now bear dark, powdery deposits.

Medieval glass deteriorates more quickly than 19th-century examples because it is potash-based rather than soda-based, Mr Hill said.

"Potash is worse-affected by water. With condensation and rain, it is being eroded and eaten away. Nineteenth-century glass can last for hundreds of years but the leadwork deteriorates, breaks down and granulates."

"It will fail after 150 years and needs to be replaced. That involves breaking down the window and putting it together with new lead."

Mr Hill said that much of the country's 19th-century glass would need restoration work within the next 50 years but many specialist conservators would retire over the next decade.



Judy Hill works on a window at Ely Cathedral. About a dozen Anglican churches are vandalised each day

grand scale
ntions have
going wrong

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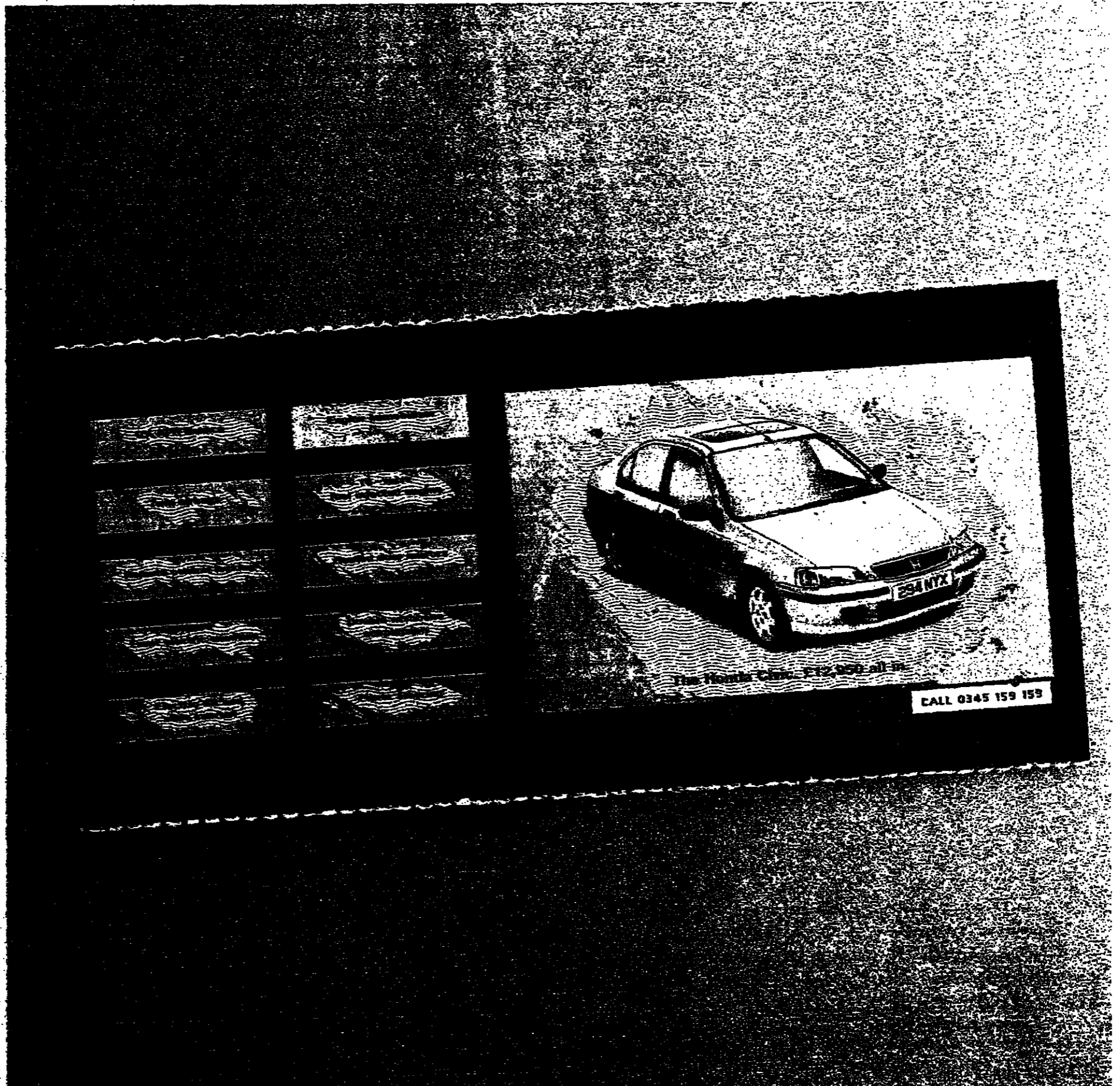
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Prototype sub faces new threat from sea

Russell Jenkins on the maritime treasure in danger of breaking up before it can be brought to surface

MARINE archaeologists fear that the world's first engine-powered submarine, which sank off North Wales 120 years ago, is in more danger now than at any time since its inventor watched it disappear beneath the waves.

The *Resurgam*, invented by an eccentric curate, is the forerunner of the modern submarine and has long been cherished as one of the most important of the maritime treasures scattered on the seabed around the British Isles.

Divers believe that the wreck has been hit by a ship's anchor or a beam trawler, ripping the metal shell and its wooden cladding from its resting place and shifting it five metres. It now sits upright, prey to further damage from traffic in a busy shipping lane, and disturbingly mobile.

Almost four years after *Resurgam* was rediscovered by a fisherman, who snagged his nets on the wreck five miles

north of Rhyl, there are no viable plans to move it to a place of safety underwater or raise it and conserve it for posterity.

Alix Hildred, head of research at the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth, admits that the prospects for *Resurgam*, Latin for "I shall rise again", are bleak. "It is in an exposed and dangerous position anyway," she said. "If it has become more mobile then it is even worse."

The Rev George Garrett, then 27, conceived of the steam-powered vessel in 1879



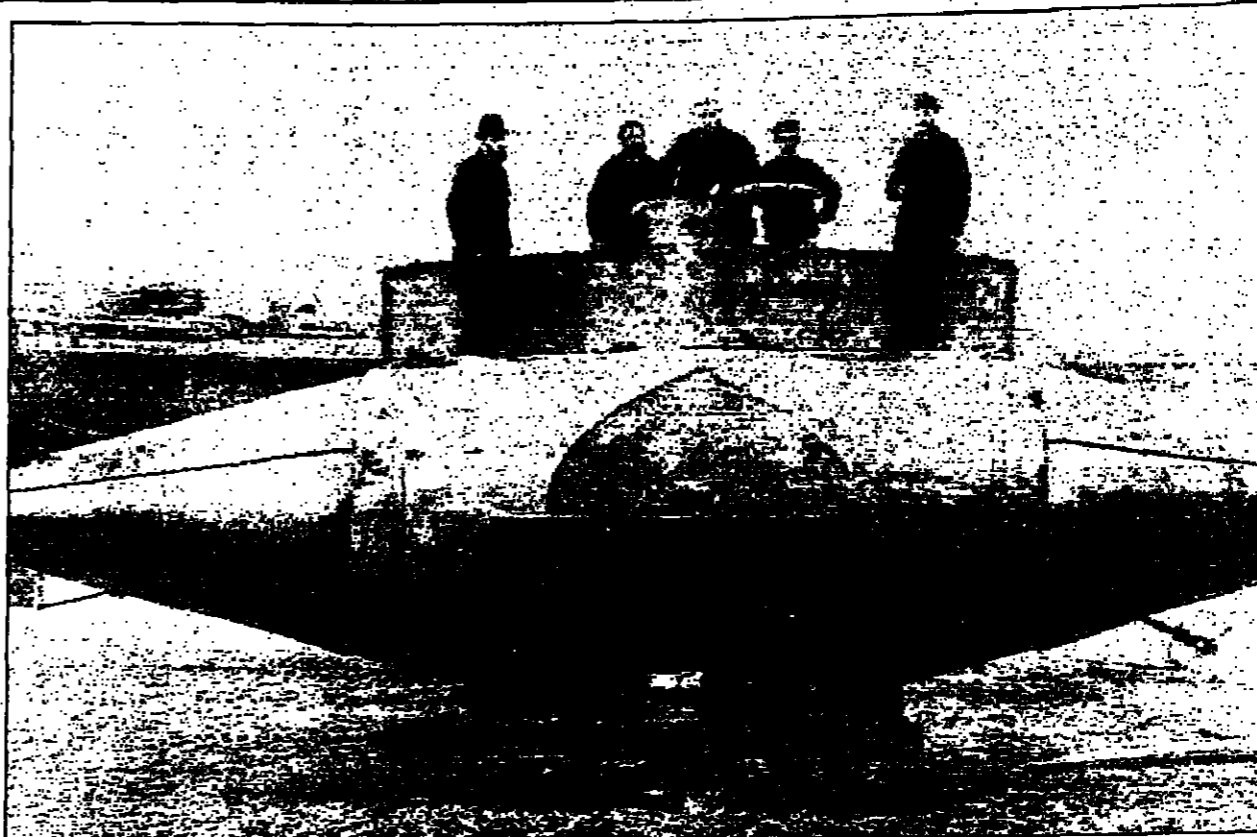
as the only way to secure Britain's maritime defences after the appearance of Russian warships off the Canadian coast. He sketched the plans for the sub on the back of an envelope and raised much of the £1,500 costs of the prototype through parish fetes in Manchester's Moss Side. The

cleric was convinced that there was enough steam from the coal-fired boiler to power the vessel for up to ten hours and that there would be enough oxygen for three men to operate the controls in candlelight. The Royal Navy was so impressed with reports of the machine that it offered to pay Garrett £60,000 if the prototype passed its sea trials.

However, the 30-ton *Resurgam* sank in a heavy swell on February 25, 1880, as she was being towed to Portsmouth for the trials. The clergyman watched it go down.

The current pessimism is in high contrast to the optimism surrounding an ambitious survey of the craft last year, involving 110 volunteers, mostly divers from the Government's Archaeological Diving Unit. Bill Garrett, the great-grandson of the inventor, was given the privilege of entering the submarine.

Mr Garrett, who lives in the United States, said: "The bow had been pierced and the inside was dense with marine growth. There is a fine black sediment inside the hull, lumps of coal being the only loose artefacts that I could see.



The *Resurgam*, forerunner of today's submarines: its design was sketched on an envelope by an eccentric curate

Nothing was disturbed. Most of the valves and indicators were in exactly the same positions as given on the engineering drawings for the submarine."

Since then, trophy-hunting divers have raided *Resurgam*, stealing a porthole from the conning tower and part of the steering wheel, and breaking down defences built to protect the craft. The vessel, positioned precariously near a gas pipeline, is being eroded by the currents.

It remains the subject of exhaustive arguments between conservationists and the guardians of heritage sites.

Ms Hildred said: "People are going to carry on arguing about it and, in the meantime, it is going to be destroyed."

Peter Holt, one of the original survey team, said: "It is

such a shame to have such a national treasure, to survey it just to leave it there."

There has been discussion about marking the site with a permanent buoy to deter shipping, an option previously discounted because it may attract scavenging divers.

Sian Rees, Inspector of Ancient Wrecks at CADW, the Welsh heritage body that has care of *Resurgam*, said: "At

the moment there are groups that are trying to work out ways of financing ambitious schemes to conserve *Resurgam*, but it is not envisaged that anything will happen in the next 12 months.

"I do not think we ought to be too gloomy. We are not sure it hasn't moved on several occasions in the past. We cannot really tell how much it has suffered since the last century."

NET LINKS

- www.plm.net/wrecktek/chinco.html shipwreck information site
- <http://artemis.eng.monash.edu.au/~niclason/acuba/site-list.html> general diving site and wreck links
- <http://members.aol.com/marknewell/contents.html> submarine wreck project for sports divers
- www.ozemail.com.au/~kemooon/taswreck.html shipwreck diving in Tasmanian waters



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear danger in high wind

An inquiry was begun yesterday after high winds forced the declaration of an emergency at the Hunterston nuclear power station in Ayrshire.

The link to the national grid used to cool its reactors was severed twice. Emergency generators came on line the first time, late on Saturday night. It is understood, however, that staff did not reset the generators after power was restored, leaving the reactor vulnerable when the grid link was broken a second time.

Fire girl dies

Zoe Harvey, 10, who was injured in a fire at her home in Gatley, near Stockport, on Boxing Day, has died. Her sisters Katie, 6, and Lisa Jane, 3, are critically ill in Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester.

Nimmo conscious

The actor Derek Nimmo, 68, who spent Christmas in a coma after falling down stairs at his home in London, is now fully conscious and sitting up in bed at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Pirate battle

Two Scotland Yard detectives will present recommendations to combat piracy to a conference in Singapore in February. They have plans to trace gangs which last year cost 51 lives and millions of pounds.

Rabbi resigns

The woman rabbi passed over for the job as head of Britain's top Reform synagogue has resigned. Jacqueline Tabick has left the West London synagogue, Marble Arch, after failing to become senior minister.

For her ears only

An intermittent whining that can be heard only by women is being investigated in Warrington, Cheshire. A dozen women reported the noise, which is inaudible to male environmental health inspectors.

Postman delivers life to sick child

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A POSTMAN saved a child's life on his first day on a new round, with the help of his girlfriend, an ambulance controller, who gave him medical instructions over the telephone.

Michael Watts was delivering in Sampford Peverell, Devon, when a mother ran into the street clutching her unconscious 16-month-old daughter. The child had suffered a febrile convulsion as a result of over-heating and had passed out during the fit.

Mr Watts, 29, calmed the mother, Vanessa Scorse, then dialled 999 from a nearby house and ultimately found himself talking to his girlfriend, Julia Stuckey. He said: "I spoke to one of her colleagues first and he was very good, but it was good to speak to her. I went back outside, got the baby and did what they told me. The baby had got really hot and went limp."

He cooled the baby, Victoria, by removing clothing and bathing her with a cloth dipped in tepid water. Mr Watts, from Tiverton, Devon, added: "I was the only person in the street and it's just human instinct to do something. It was a nightmare first day though, I couldn't believe it."

Ms Stuckey said: "Michael was very helpful in a situation where no one knew what to do and there was a lot of panic. I think he was probably reassured that it was my voice on the end of the phone."

Mrs Scorse said: "I was on my own because my husband was at work. I didn't know what to do. I ran into the street like a demented idiot. I was lucky I found the postman."

Victoria returned home after hospital treatment in Exeter. A Westcountry Ambulance spokeswoman said that the convulsions were not life-threatening in themselves, but the baby was in danger while unconscious. "A febrile convulsion is a form of fit, but not attached to epilepsy. At some stage they do stop breathing, so Mr Watts did save her life."

Prince gives cash to save beauty spot

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE Prince of Wales has helped residents of a village in North Wales to raise £450,000 to prevent a beauty spot being turned into a quarry.

The Prince made a "considerable" donation to their appeal after hearing that the rocky outcrop near Mold was to be flattened by bulldozers. Moel Fideg, which has been a landmark for generations of hillwalkers, would disappear under plans to quarry rock from the 67-acre site.

More than 130 villagers from Maeshafn started the fund and appealed for donations from the Prince, among others. David Scruton, leader of the campaign, said: "We have had a mountain to climb to raise the money, but it's better than looking at a huge quarry." The site is

owned by the construction company Whiteleys, which said it would not sell for less than £500,000.

Mr Scruton said: "We made an offer, but we have not heard anything yet. We believe it is an extremely fair offer and we must use all our powers of persuasion."

Villagers have contributed £25,000 from their fundraising efforts with £75,000 in pledges. The Liverpool and Wirral Ramblers sent a £1,500 donation and other people who stroll over the mountain have contributed.

A National Lottery grant of £250,000 has been promised and Denbighshire County Council is contributing £100,000. The people of the village hope to turn the site into a country park.

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Dome to have a 'multimedia' cross

Theatre on Thames to ease the city crush



A stack of monitors and speakers will represent the Crucifixion of Christ, Dominic Kennedy reports

THE symbol of Christ's Crucifixion in the Millennium Dome will be a "multimedia installation" in the shape of a cross, according to the blueprint for the controversial Spirit Zone.

The cross is mentioned only once in the four-page Spirit Zone Content Status Report, a copy of which has been seen by The Times. It is described somewhat ambiguously as "a set of eight media installations with monitor stack and speakers behind glazed plate in geometric cross shape".

Michael Fabricant, a Conservative member of the Commons Culture Committee, last night criticised the report produced by the New Millennium Experience Company. "The Spirit Zone seems to have been reduced to the level of a Steven Spielberg cartoon," he said. "One wonders when the original concept of the Spirit Zone was being thought of... whether they really had a stack of speakers in the shape of a cross in mind. The word 'triviality' does spring to mind."

But Peter Pike, a Labour member of the Commons Ecclesiastical Committee, said: "It is right to try and reflect that this is now a multicultural and multireligious society." In spite of calls by some Church leaders for a greater Christian content in the Dome, only a minority of the exhibits in the Spirit Zone are to be explicitly Christian. Most

sections deal with a non-specific idea of spirituality, concentrating on human milestones such as childhood and death.

The content status report says: "The visitor experiences a journey which encompasses the many faiths that make up Britain AD2000 - but acknowledges the Christian framework of British culture and ideas. It shows spirituality is linked with life experiences common to all."

An area called Living Icons will show "the life and teachings of Jesus, the reason for celebrating 2000AD". Another section, Christ's Teaching and Life, includes projected texts.

About £12 million was originally intended to be spent on the zone but the budget has been reduced to £4 million because sponsors were reluctant to pay for it. Muslims are being requested to contribute £1 million towards the zone, as are Hindus, Christians and Jews. An announcement confirming sponsorship by organisations and anonymous benefactors from the four faith communities is expected in January.

Visitors to the Spirit Zone will be able to share their personal thoughts on spirituality with others by writing messages on paper which will be projected onto a wall. They can also write a "note that is collected in a container and compressed at the end of each day to form 366 blocks of millennium thoughts for later display".



An impression of the Dome's Spirit Zone. The blueprint for its high-tech Christian content has been ridiculed as "cartoonish" and "trivial"

THEATRICAL performances will be staged on bridges across the Thames in London on New Year's Eve 1999 to draw crowds away from Trafalgar Square.

Planners arranging the celebrations will encourage people to assemble along the riverbanks for a programme of attractions. The Millennium Commission said: "Planning is under way for a series of events, entertainments and activities along the river - each set of bridges providing a 'stage' allowing the public to choose which venue and activity they most want to see." The symbolism of the river as the heart of London, and as the river of time flowing down towards the Dome, is the key theme of activity, covering the theatrical spectaculars and individual performances at different times of the day.

More details will be announced in March. Other plans to ease the crush include hiring every available large video screen in London and erecting them in the royal parks, allowing thousands to watch the live events from a distance and in safety.

New Banking and Savings Interest Rates from Nationwide

FROM 1ST JANUARY 1999
RATES FOR PERSONAL SAVERS

Account Name	Balance	Previous			New		
		AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
CashBuilder	£50,000 +	4.90%	4.90%	3.92%	4.40%	4.40%	3.52%
	£25,000 - £49,999	4.60%	4.60%	3.60%	4.10%	4.10%	3.28%
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.20%	4.20%	3.30%	3.70%	3.70%	2.96%
	£5,000 - £9,999	4.00%	4.00%	3.20%	3.50%	3.50%	2.80%
£1 - £4,999	3.80%	3.80%	3.04%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%	
£1 - £999	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%	
CapitalBuilder	£50,000 +	5.90%	5.90%	4.72%	5.40%	5.40%	4.32%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.60%	5.60%	4.48%	5.10%	5.10%	4.08%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.30%	5.30%	4.24%	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%
	£1 - £9,999	5.10%	5.10%	4.08%	4.60%	4.60%	3.68%
Monthly Income	£50,000 +	5.60%	5.60%	4.48%	5.10%	5.10%	4.08%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.30%	5.30%	4.24%	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.50%	3.60%
	£1 - £9,999	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%	4.30%	4.30%	3.44%
The Smart Account	£1 +	7.38%	7.25%	5.80%	6.92%	6.80%	5.44%
	£1 -	7.38%	7.25%	5.80%	6.92%	6.80%	5.44%
TESSA	£1 - £9,999	7.10%	7.10%	5.68%	6.60%	6.60%	5.28%
	£1 - £9,000	7.10%	7.10%	5.68%	6.60%	6.60%	5.28%
TESSA 2	£1 - £9,000	7.10%	7.00%	5.68%	6.60%	7.00%	6.60%
	£1 - £9,000	7.10%	7.00%	5.68%	6.60%	7.00%	6.60%
	£1 - £9,000	7.10%	7.00%	5.68%	6.60%	7.00%	6.60%
	£1 - £9,000	7.10%	7.00%	5.68%	6.60%	7.00%	6.60%
Bonus 60* Annual	£100,000 +	6.35%	7.10%	7.10%	5.68%	5.85%	6.60%
	£50,000 - £99,999	5.95%	6.70%	6.70%	5.36%	5.45%	6.20%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.65%	6.40%	6.40%	5.12%	5.15%	5.90%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.35%	6.10%	6.10%	4.88%	4.85%	5.60%
£1 - £9,999	5.05%	5.80%	5.80%	4.64%	4.55%	5.30%	
Bonus 60* Monthly	£100,000 +	6.15%	6.90%	6.90%	5.52%	5.65%	6.40%
	£50,000 - £99,999	5.75%	6.40%	6.40%	5.12%	5.15%	5.90%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.45%	6.10%	6.10%	4.88%	4.85%	5.60%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.15%	5.80%	5.80%	4.64%	4.55%	5.30%
£1 - £9,999	4.85%	5.50%	5.50%	4.40%	4.25%	5.00%	

*Bonus 60 and Bonus 60 Monthly rates from the new AER include a 0.75% gross p.a. (0.60% net p.a.) bonus which is variable, and is added to the account balance at the end of each month. The bonus is variable but is guaranteed to be at least 0.75% gross p.a. (0.60% net p.a.) from 1st January 1999. The bonus is payable for a maximum of 12 months. The bonus is payable for a maximum of 12 months. The bonus is payable for a maximum of 12 months. The bonus is payable for a maximum of 12 months.

RATES FOR BUSINESS SAVERS

Account Name	Balance	Previous			New		
		AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
BusinessInvestor	£50,000 +	4.99%	4.99%	3.92%	4.49%	4.49%	3.52%
	£25,000 - £49,999	4.69%	4.69%	3.60%	4.19%	4.19%	3.28%
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.29%	4.29%	3.30%	3.79%	3.79%	2.96%
	£5,000 - £9,999	4.09%	4.09%	3.20%	3.59%	3.59%	2.80%
£1 - £4,999	3.89%	3.89%	3.04%	3.39%	3.39%	2.64%	
Treasures' Trust Account	£1 +	2.62%	2.62%	2.08%	2.62%	2.62%	2.08%
	£1 -	2.62%	2.62%	2.08%	2.62%	2.62%	2.08%
PortfolioInvestor	£50,000 +	6.35%	6.20%	4.76%	5.82%	5.70%	4.56%
	£1 - £49,999	6.14%	6.00%	4.60%	5.61%	5.50%	4.40%

If the account balance on BusinessInvestor falls below £2,000 interest will be paid at 0.50% gross p.a. (0.40% net p.a.) interest is calculated daily and paid quarterly on the last day of March, June, September and December. BusinessInvestor interest is paid half yearly on 31st December. The bonus is payable for a maximum of 12 months.

RATES FOR ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW SAVERS

Account Name	Balance	Previous			New			
		AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	
IncomeBond	£10,000 +	5.80%	5.80%	4.56%	5.36%	5.30%	4.24%	
	£1 - £9,999	5.50%	5.50%	4.26%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%	
	TaxFree Option Instant	£25,000 +	4.60%	4.60%	3.68%	4.10%	4.10%	3.28%
		£10,000 - £24,999	4.30%	4.30%	3.36%	3.70%	3.70%	2.96%
£5,000 - £9,999		4.00%	4.00%	3.20%	3.50%	3.50%	2.80%	
£1 - £4,999		3.80%	3.80%	3.04%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%	
TaxFree Option 90 Day	£25,000 +	5.60%	5.60%	4.48%	5.10%	5.10%	4.08%	
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.30%	5.30%	4.24%	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%	
	£1 - £9,999	5.10%	5.10%	4.08%	4.60%	4.60%	3.68%	
	TaxFree Option 180 Day	£25,000 +	6.15%	6.15%	4.92%	5.65%	5.65%	4.52%
£10,000 - £24,999		5.85%	5.85%	4.68%	5.35%	5.35%	4.28%	
£1 - £9,999		5.30%	5.30%	4.24%	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%	
DoubleBonus		£1 +	3.80%	3.80%	3.04%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%
	Bonus 90	£20,000 +	5.60%	5.60%	4.48%	5.17%	5.10%	4.08%
		£10,000 - £19,999	5.37%	5.30%	4.24%	4.86%	4.80%	3.84%
		£1 - £9,999	5.17%	5.10%	4.08%	4.65%	4.60%	3.68%
Subscription Share		£1 - £200 per month (or £400 joint)	7.40%	7.40%	5.92%	6.90%	6.90%	5.52%

If the account balance on Bonus 90 falls below £2,000 interest will be paid at 0.50% gross p.a. (0.40% net p.a.) interest is calculated daily and paid quarterly on the last day of March, June, September and December.



Admired: Mother Teresa and Diana, Princess of Wales

Women head poll of heroes

By Dominic Kennedy

THE greatest heroes of the 20th century are Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Diana, Princess of Wales, according to the British public.

The favourite item to be included in a millennium time capsule was millennium stamps, said the survey of 1,415 Britons, which was commissioned by the Royal Mail to launch its new stamps. The stamps, which had 30 per cent support, were suggested to the interviewees, along with the other most popular items, a lottery ticket and an Only Fools and Horses video (both 25 per cent).

Mother Teresa, the nun who devoted her life to the poor, was named by 25 per cent of Britons as the most enduring 20th-century hero, with 17 per cent choosing the Princess. They were followed by the black civil rights leaders Martin Luther King (11 per cent) and Nelson Mandela (9 per cent); Sir Winston Churchill (8 per cent) and Mahatma Gandhi (5 per cent). Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Albert Einstein each had 3 per cent.

The Conservatives provided the outstanding British politicians of the 20th century, with 41 per cent choosing Churchill as the greatest and 21 per cent Baroness Thatcher. Queen Victoria was named as the most influential monarch in history, with 34 per cent of the vote. She was followed by Elizabeth II (21 per cent), Henry VIII (11 per cent) and Elizabeth I (11 per cent).

Favourite capsule items suggested freely by the public were The Sun (20 per cent) and a picture of Tony Blair (19 per cent). The Bible would be the best book for the time capsule, according to 22 per cent.

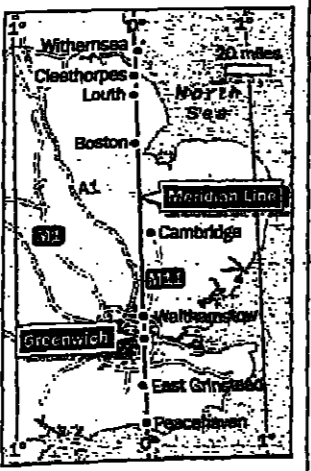
People of the century, page 23

Drawing the line for the big party

By Nick Nuttall

THE Greenwich Meridian is to appear on Ordnance Survey maps for the first time, to help people planning millennium parties. It will appear as a green line from Peacehaven in East Sussex up to Withernsea, north of the Humber.

The detailed maps, part of the new Explorer series originally designed for walkers, are to be released in the new year. Paul Franklin, the survey's publishing manager, said yesterday that the decision had been taken after requests from the public.



He said: "The Prime Meridian has no real significance for mapping in Britain, although it is of huge importance to the measurement of time. Many people want to know whether their village, street or school is on or near the line so they can arrange special celebrations. A brass line marks the meridian at Greenwich, which also denotes the division between the east and west hemispheres. The shape of the Earth makes the map line curve from the Channel coast to Greenwich, Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, Boston, Lincolnshire, and on through the Humber Estuary to the North Sea.

Postman deliver life to sick child

It gives and beauty spa

Handwritten text in a box at the top of the page.

France's farmers bridle at the euro

The rural lobby and the urban jobless are yet to be convinced, reports Ben Macintyre in Paris

THERE are two bogeymen that hover insistently over Brussels, threatening to disturb the tranquil euro dreams therein: one is a farmer, the other is unemployed. Both are angry.

In the fanfare to welcome the euro, these two themes are permanently audible behind the jubilant chorus in the debate over reforming European agriculture and the pledge that economic and monetary union (EMU) will bring with it economic growth and more jobs.

The bulky French information pack on the launch of the euro, 33 million of which are being distributed nationwide, begins with the express prediction that the single currency will be the dawn of a new age in European job creation.

Despite massive efforts, France's 11.5 per cent unemployment, surpassed in Europe only by Spain and Italy, is stubbornly refusing to drop at the promised rate and the slow decline in unemployment may have bottomed out. If the euro fails to deliver, or is felt to have failed to deliver, the required



employment action groups have been developing sophisticated and belligerent protest tactics. A mass invasion of social security offices in France by the long-term unemployed a year ago presented the Socialist-led Government with a serious challenge.

If the mergers that are expected to accompany the launch of the euro are perceived to have led to layoffs, then opposition to EMU may also rise, for in many instances fears of unemployment have a more dramatic effect on public opinion than actual job losses.

At the Vienna summit earlier this month, the last before the formal launch of the euro, France and Germany pointedly urged other EU governments to establish "binding and verifiable" employment targets, so putting job creation "at the centre" of the new Eu-

rope. If the unemployed represent one clear threat to the halcyon visions in Brussels, then militant farmers, who are facing depressed agricultural markets and chronic rural depopulation in many areas, are another. Polls in France show that, while the population as a whole is in favour of the euro, uncertainty and hostility are concentrated among the poor and those living in rural areas.

Running parallel with the launch of the single currency are the Agenda 2000 negotiations with the attendant, and highly combustible, issue of reform of spending on agriculture, while the question of EU enlargement and agricultural policy are entwined: Poland alone has more farms than Britain, France and Germany combined.

France, Spain and Ireland all foresee big bills under the possibility of "co-financing", through which governments would pay a proportion of direct payment subsidies. "We refuse co-financing," Pierre Moscovici, the French European Affairs Minister, insists.

French farmers' unions last week began tensely scrutinising EU proposals for compensation for lower farm payments under the euro. "Farmers must not be penalised for the euro," the unions said, as the new system for calculating farm subsidies across the EU after tomorrow was presented.

France's (so far) adamant refusal to contemplate co-financing the common agricultural policy is itself a reflection of widespread fears that farmers, if sufficiently enraged, could become alienated. In a country such as France, still predominantly agrarian, such dislocation could have far-reaching and dramatic political effects.

Australia embraces new era

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

HEAVY reliance on Britain as its gateway for European exports could create problems for Australia with the euro's arrival, a government report has said. Australia sells 85 per cent of its goods to the European Union through the country.

Because Britain is not adopting the euro, Australian businesses could face a competitive

disadvantage, the Department of Foreign Affairs study has concluded. It suggests Australian exporters could pay increased foreign exchange and hedging costs if they continue to make Britain a main point of entry to mainland Europe.

In a thinly veiled warning to Australian companies, the report suggests: "The European business environment will become more competitive and ex-

porters will need to respond." But Canberra admitted that the problem would probably be short-term because Britain was unlikely to remain out of monetary union for long.

Tim Fischer, the Trade Minister, advised banks and suppliers to switch to the euro at once. Exporters should enjoy the lower cost structure that would almost certainly come with the currency, he said.



An employee hangs up a sign in a Florence shop window yesterday announcing acceptance of payment in euros

Hopes rise for tumbling prices

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

CONSUMERS will be kings in the new euroland. Price tags in euros will allow shoppers to assess the true cost of goods in countries that join economic and monetary union (EMU) without having to use calculators.

Studies show that prices vary tremendously across the continent, even for identical products such as a Big Mac. It costs nearly twice as much in Denmark as in Greece, according to a study by the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consomma-

teurs. The price of a Fiat Punto in France is 35 per cent lower than in Britain. The euro's introduction is likely to push the price of some goods downwards.

The euro and holidays: Prices will be quoted in euros and the national currency. Although euro notes and coins will not be available until January 1, 2002, holidaymakers will be able to pay in euros using a credit or debit card.

Thomas Cook will offer euro traveller's cheques. But if your destination is Greece, Sweden, Denmark or Switzerland, which

like Britain will stay out of the eurozone for now, it will be business as usual.

Euro mortgages: Theoretically, Britons will be able to approach any lender in an EMU member state for a euro loan. Borrowers may well be tempted by lower rates on the continent. But the loan will be subject to currency fluctuations. A sudden drop in sterling would increase your mortgage overnight.

Tomorrow: euro bank accounts

Duisenberg defiant, page 27

SALE

AN EXTRA 10% OFF SALE PRICES MUST END SATURDAY

Service and features that make living easy

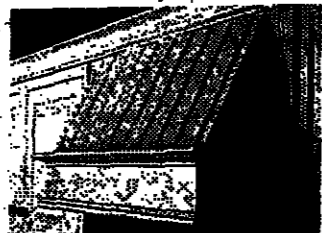
A kitchen is more than the room you cook in, it's the focal point of



A granite worktop co-ordinator with the rest of the kitchen.

your entire home. So, when replacing your kitchen, it's important to get it right, and getting it right is something we specialise in

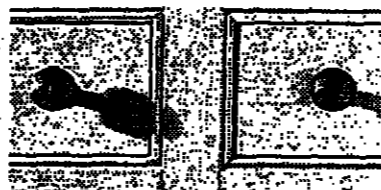
at Magnet. It starts with amazing attention to detail that is apparent in



A canopy with tongue and groove detail echoes shelving, built panels and cabinet eye panels.

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Some figures appeared too good to be true.

Small print text at the bottom of the advertisement containing legal disclaimers and company information.

Cold War spy to be Bonn party adviser

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

A CONTROVERSY erupted in Germany yesterday over the decision by a left-wing parliamentary party to hire a top Cold War spy as its foreign and security policy adviser.

Rainer Rupp, codenamed Topaz by the East Germany espionage service, passed some of NATO's most delicate military secrets to the Soviet bloc for a decade. Jailed for 12 years in 1994 on treason charges, he is now on day release from an open prison — and he has promptly been offered a job as a parliamentary adviser by the ex-communist Party of Democratic Socialists.

"To recruit a man who wrought immeasurable damage on Germany and NATO is a political disgrace, the height of contempt," said Peter Ramsauer, the parliamentary leader of the conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union. Other mainstream parties agreed. The Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats are considering the exclusion of the ex-communists from foreign and security committees in parliament. Rupp was a master spy. One German military expert testifying at his trial said: "Rupp's betrayal could have lost NATO a war."

The bearded 53-year-old drew his English wife, Ann Christine, into the spying web. Mrs Rupp — codenamed Turquoise by the East Germans — was posted in 1967 from the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall to the British mission to



Rupp: his betrayal could have cost NATO a war

NATO in Brussels. In 1970 she met Rupp, who had been instructed to penetrate NATO or the European Commission, and, in her own words, "fell madly in love".

She applied for a more permanent position in Brussels and in 1972 became a secretary at the newly founded NATO agency responsible for developing communication systems.

In 1977 she was moved to the NATO Office for Security, dealing with counter-intelligence and the security of alliance staff — a windfall for her husband since she could, in effect, be an early warning system.

The court hearings showed that she helped her husband, making duplicates of agendas and compiling staff descriptions ordered by her East Berlin controllers. In the wine cellar of their Brussels home — which was bought with the aid of a loan from the East Germans — she photographed se-

cret documents. The microfilm was later placed in the hollowed-out base of Tuborg beer cans. Later her enthusiasm waned and she put pressure on her husband to stop spying. She is the mother of Rupp's three children.

The main intelligence, however, was gathered by Rupp. In 1977 he gained a senior position in the NATO economic directorate. Between 1977 and 1989 he signed out 1,737 NATO secret documents. They included papers from the NATO Cosmic top-secret file, including draft proposals for the organisation's security council, plans for the modernisation of medium range nuclear weapons and, his biggest coup, the MCI61 report from 1988 covering all alliance intelligence on Warsaw Pact countries.

His spying activities came to an abrupt end in December 1989 when he was instructed by a shortwave radio message from East Berlin to "destroy everything and keep the money. Good luck!" The prosecutor alleged that he received monthly payments of £1,200 and a loan to buy a house.

The move by the Party of Democratic Socialism is a gesture underlining its policy that former spies from East Germany should be treated on an equal basis with West German agents. "We always believed that it was wrong for spies on one side of the border to have medals pinned on their chest, while spies from the other side were put in jail," Hanno Harnisch, a party spokesman, said yesterday.



Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas patrol villages around Podujevo, north of Pristina, yesterday where an uneasy ceasefire prevailed for the third day after fighting last week between Serb security forces and ethnic Albanians. Each side has demanded the other side's withdrawal

West welcomes Cyprus missiles decision

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN, America and the European Union yesterday welcomed the decision by President Clerides of Cyprus not to station Russian missiles in the island, saying that it helped to create the conditions for a lasting settlement.

But the decision caused furious rows in Greece and Cyprus. Yiannakis Omirou, the Defence Minister, and Lycourgos Kappas, the Education Minister, the only Socialist in the Cyprus coalition Cabinet, will resign today in protest. Western leaders were

relieved that the stationing of the S300 missiles in Crete instead of Cyprus removed the threat of immediate Turkish retaliatory airstrikes. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the decision was a significant contribution to international efforts to reduce tensions in the region.

In Vienna, Wolfgang Schüssel, the Austrian Foreign Minister, called the decision an important success for Vienna's presidency of the European Union. He said it also justified the opening of talks with Nicosia on Cypriot membership of the EU. Turkey depicted the decision as

backing down in the face of Ankara's resolution. But it also denounced as unacceptable the deployment of the missiles in Crete, saying that would increase tensions between Greece and Turkey.

Mr Clerides and Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, came under fierce attack in Cyprus and Greece, with opposition parties and press denouncing "a humiliating climbdown". Greek papers accused Mr Simitis of selling out Cyprus and bowing to pressure from Washington. Russia, under contract to supply the missiles, said it did not matter where they were de-

ployed. But the contract could not be broken: "The Russian-Cyprus contract is of a purely commercial nature," the Foreign Ministry in Moscow said. "The Russian side is fulfilling all the terms. It is important that the buyer abide by the obligations."

Britain, America and Greece have engaged in intensive diplomacy to prevent their deployment in Cyprus, and Turkey has intensified threats to destroy them if they arrive in the island. The Cypriot decision came after an appeal by the UN Security Council.

Leading article, page 23

New Interest Rates

Product	Current	New
Variable Gross Rates	Rate pa	Rate pa
Investment Account		
£50,000+	6.25%	5.75%
New rates: 14 January 1999		
£25,000+	5.75%	5.25%
£10,000+	5.50%	5.00%
£5,000+	5.25%	4.80%
£2,500+	5.00%	4.60%
£500+	4.75%	4.40%
Under £500	4.50%	4.20%

Treasurer's Account		
£100,000+	6.25%	5.75%
New rates: 14 January 1999		
£25,000+	5.75%	5.25%
£10,000+	5.50%	5.00%

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£500+	2.50%*	2.00%
New rates: 1 February 1999		
£1+	2.00%*	1.75%

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General Extension Rate*	3.24%*	3.00%
New rates: 1 February 1999		

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Fixed Interest	Current	New
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Savings Certificates - 15th Issue	1.65%	2.06%
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Venetians wage war on pigeons

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN VENICE

THE Mayor of Venice has signed an order authorising the killing of the sickliest among the city's pampered pigeon population.

Surveys estimate that the birds number more than 100,000, many of them concentrated in St Mark's Square. Tourists delight in feeding the throngs of birds, nurturing a Venetian flock estimated to be 20 times that of Rome's.

Officials say 15 per cent of the birds carry salmonella, a bacterial disease transmittable to humans, and describe even the healthy ones as a menace to the city's monuments.

Massimo Cacciari, the Mayor, approved a plan that allows city employees to kill ailing birds. Venice previously tried to control the size of the flocks by scattering chemically treated birdseed intended to sterilise the birds. Animal rights groups oppose the latest plan, while city officials say it is essential.

Flora's warning: The Italian Government yesterday formally blocked a plan to build revolutionary flood barriers to save Venice from rapidly rising tides, saying it would ruin the lagoon.

Confirming a ruling by a government commission earlier this month, Edo Ronchi, the Environment Minister, and Giovanna Melandri, the Cultural Affairs Minister, ruled that the \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) project would not go ahead but could be reassessed if radical changes were made.

The ruling contradicted the view of international experts who found that the plan was the best of all possible solutions. Italy has spent \$120 million on studies and experiments for the project. (Reuters)

French pride gives birth to Zidane and Troiszero

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRANCE'S World Cup victory earlier this year prompted many patriotic parents to name their children in honour of the nation's soccer heroes, according to a survey.

The research also confirms that names have become progressively sillier since a law that dictated which ones were acceptable was abolished in 1993.

The first name Zidane — after France's beloved mid-field goal scorer, Zinedine Zidane — has become a popular choice, particularly in Algerian neighbourhoods, during the six months since France beat Brazil 3-0 in the World Cup final, according to Philippe Besnard, research director at the National Centre for Scientific Research.

Some parents were so overjoyed with 1998's sporting success that they have named their newborn Jospin after their Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin.

There have even been reports of children being called Troiszero (Three-nil) and Onechampion (We are the Champions), but the news magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* said that these had not been registered officially.

Until the recent change, names were restricted by law to those of saints or characters from ancient history. Therefore, Caligula was permitted, but Pamela was not.

Spelling was also tightly controlled. In 1987 the law was relaxed to permit names "in general usage or relevant to foreign or French tradition".

By 1993, however, the State had decided to abandon any attempt at control, leaving only one restriction — given names should not be "contrary to the interests of the child".



Zidane: the heroic name on the lips of many a proud Gallic parent

This has led to an explosion in new ones: some are quaint, many unlikely and a few are downright bizarre.

Hitherto banned names such as Fleur, Vanille, Prune, Caramel, Miel and Cerise have become more popular with every passing year, testifying to the enduring French preoccupation with food.

In former times, half the inhabitants of any village picked at random might well have had the same first name, and children were traditionally named after a godmother or godfather.

Now parents have let their imaginations run riot, using nouns such as Oceane, Fauve (wildcat) or Mistral, after the persistent wind that blows through southern France. Others have simply turned

to invention, producing names such as Aurbe, Yate and the popular Tigrane.

Increasingly trendy parents have taken to calling their offspring Lambada, Chanel, Tuba and Calvin (for Calvinia), after a favoured dance, scent, musical instrument or designer brand, while the once forbidden jewel names — Jade, Emerald, Rubis and Amber — are highly prized.

Hollywood has been a big influence. In 1995 there was a sudden surge in the number of M Kevin, in homage to the prominence and popularity of Kevin Costner, while the decision to make Sharon Stone a Chevalier of Arts and Letters caused a sudden, massive outbreak of baby Sharons.

The popularity of *Friends* has prompted an outbreak of progeny blessed with the names of the American soap's principal characters.

Most worrying, from the point of view of language traditionalists, is the growing tendency to take Anglo-Saxon names and give them a whacky French spin: hence Dionathane, Braiane, Djaysone, Aillissone and Dilane.

Very occasionally French authorities are prepared to intervene. This happened recently when a mayor refused to accept Felix Le Cat as a child's first name. Another couple was prevented from naming their twins Starsky and Hutch.

It may be a moot point whether having to go through life with the name Jospin Smith constitutes a handicap, but naming one's child after the sporting figure *du jour* can be tricky. Those who opted for Barthez after the famed French World Cup goalkeeper, Fabien Barthez, may be having second thoughts. He was dropped for France's last match.

Escape of terrorist irks Rome

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

ITALY'S Centre-Left Government was once more accused of leniency towards terrorists yesterday after one of the most ferocious murderers of the Red Brigades gang, Marcello Ghiringhelli, escaped from custody while on Christmas leave.

Ghiringhelli, 56, had been serving a life sentence for the murder in 1982 of two bank guards, one of the last fatal attacks claimed by the Turin branch of the Marxist-terrorist group before it was defeated by the state.

After 16 years in jail Ghiringhelli was allowed to work on day release for good conduct. His disappearance this week after being granted two days' leave was criticised by the head of the Association for the Victims of Terrorism, Maurizio Puddu.

"The state is mixing up humanity with its duty to guard terrorists," Signor Puddu said. "It's obvious that inmates are unlikely to commit more crimes while in jail, but there are no real tests to see whether terrorists have really repented of their past actions. Reduced sentences are given out too easily."

Earlier this week President Scalfaro was attacked by the conservative Opposition after he granted a pardon to another far-Left gunman, Giorgio Panizzari of the Armed Proletarian Nuclei gang.

The impression that the Italian prison system is bursting at the seams was heightened by two breakouts from the top-security prisons of Rebibbia in Rome on December 13 and Milan's Opera prison on Christmas Day.

In spite of the future over the latest escape, the Justice Minister, Oliviero Diliberto, insisted that he would continue with controversial reforms of the penal system including his proposed abolition of life imprisonment.



Ghiringhelli: Red while on leave from prison

Phantom of Italian opera is a royalist

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

THE casting of Vanessa Redgrave in a starring role in a revolutionary, multimedia extravaganza inaugurating the New Year season of the San Carlo opera house in Naples next week has outraged Italian opposition MPs, who say public funds would be better spent on a traditional opera such as *Rigoletto*.

Ms Redgrave was chosen by the radical playwright Roberto De Simone to act the main part in *Eleonora*, a drama based in part on the life of Eleonora Pimentel de Fonseca, an aristocrat of Portuguese origin who took part in the short-lived 1799 Neapolitan revolt against the Bourbon monarchy and who was hanged during the repression of the uprising.

The San Carlo, considered by many opera buffs to be the most important Italian opera house, after Milan's, La Scala, is

opening its season with the work next Friday as part of a series of cultural events in Naples to mark the 200th anniversary of the Republic of 1799, which many Italian historians see as an important harbinger of the 19th century unification of the peninsula.

However, Naples is also traditionally a stronghold of monarchist sentiment. Italian royalists were among voters who elected Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of Il Duce, to a Naples constituency in 1992. Not all Neapolitans are happy with the way that about £800,000 has been earmarked by the Government for expenditure to mark the anniversary of 1799.

Giuseppe Del Barone, an MP for the Freedom Alliance led by the media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, has tabled a parliamentary question to the Interior and Cultural Heritage Ministers asking if it would not have been more appropriate for the San Carlo to open its season with

a classic such as *Rigoletto* or *Iris*. Some conservative national newspapers such as *La Stampa* of Turin have questioned the value of some of the scheduled events such as a Festival of Revolutionary Songs starring the rock singer Lucio Dalla and a display of revolutionary band music to be held in the recently restored Piazza Plebiscito. Nevertheless there is considerable critical excitement at the prospect of Ms Redgrave's debut in a major Italian production.

Striking costumes have been created for her by the designer Zaira de Vincenzis. The musical score includes works by Cimarosa and Paisiello and singers include the soprano Patrizia Ciofi. Ms Redgrave speaks good Italian she learnt during her relationship with the actor Franco Nero. Signor de Simone insists that the message of *Eleonora* goes beyond the memory of the events in Naples 200 years ago.

Leaders rattled by sick economy

By James Pringle

CHINA has managed to stave off — through a mixture of carrot and stick and plain luck — the dire fate of the Soviet Union and East European communist countries. But 1999 is a year of danger for the detractors of Zhongnanhai, the Chinese Kremlin.

After a good year, when President Jiang Zemin hosted — and equalled if not bettered — the likes of President Clinton, Tony Blair and other EU leaders, and drew the sting of Western criticism of China's human rights record, the Chinese leader shows every sign of having lost his composure.

In recent days he has made two stern speeches threatening to "nip in the bud" any sign of "subversion" from a human rights movement that seems to have enjoyed a little leeway in the past few months.

Several human rights activists, including Xu Wenli, who has spent a dozen years in prison, most of them in solitary confinement, for calling for democracy, have felt Mr Jiang's lash in the past two weeks. Mr Jiang now faces another 15 years in China's gulag.

Most observers in Beijing agree that though China yesterday announced that economic growth in 1998 had achieved a rate of 7.8 per cent, it is the economy that worries the leaders.

Tens of millions are unemployed from reformed state-run enterprises. Hundreds of millions of farmers have seen their incomes plummet. So China's leaders have reverted to hard-line slogans, prison sentences and a swelling bank of fiscal — economic — reserves.

China 'has abandoned socialism'

James Pringle reports from Beijing on a deepening political chill

CHINA'S leading hardline leftist figure has launched an ideological attack on Communist Party reformers, saying that they had abandoned socialism, it was reported in Beijing yesterday.

As the political chill in Beijing deepens and yet another dissident trial seems likely, Deng Liqun, 84, the former propaganda chief, said that the sale of state-run enterprises had transformed workers from "masters into hired hands of bosses".

In their hearts, it is no longer only socialism that can save China but only capitalism that can save China, said Mr Deng, who has been little heard of in recent years but is still China's leading and most influential leftist figure.

"The rights of the overwhelming majority of people would be guaranteed if state-owned enterprises were in the hands of Marxists and Leninists," he added in a speech reprinted in this month's issue of the magazine *Midstream*.

Mr Deng's remarks are being seen here as part of the broader political crackdown that has gripped China in the past few weeks and demonstrated in attacks on political dissidents, with several being sentenced to long jail terms for trying to set up a democratic party.

President Jiang Zemin, a relative moderate, has twice stated in speeches in the past two weeks that subversion would be "nipped in the bud".

Mr Deng — who is not related to China's late reforming leader, Deng Xiaoping — said the role of the state sector in the economy had been reduced to one third this year from three quarters last year.

He added: "Public ownership should be the mainstay and non-public ownership supplementary." Mr Deng cited one unidentified city, which he said had sold 1,771 state enterprises, or more than 90 per cent of the total number of such enterprises.

He indicated the extent of the problem when he said that

by brisk 7.8 per cent this year, just off its 8 per cent target, and a considerable achievement, given the Asian financial crisis and widespread floods. Anything less than 8 per cent would have created a further unemployment crisis, officials had said. But 7.8 per cent is considered near enough to be a triumph and to be a sign that big problems have been avoided.

However, economists in Beijing said that the rapid expansion in gross domestic product was almost too good to be true in a region suffering its worst slump since the Second World War and added that local officials may be massaging the figures to please the leadership.

The government largely depends for its legitimacy on delivering growth and thus providing jobs for a huge population, and it was worried that missing the target by a wide margin would trigger a loss of confidence in the economy and possibly ignite social turmoil.

At the same time, there is clearly trouble ahead, given a slump in domestic demand. Already, state banks are again lending to the loss-making state sector.

"The GDP figure is dubious" said one Chinese economist yesterday. "There must be some local governments trying to please Beijing by reporting inflated statistics."

China's startling GDP growth puts the country far ahead of every major Asian economy this year. By contrast, Indonesia's economy is expected to have shrunk by 14.8 per cent this year, Hong Kong's by 5.3 per cent and Malaysia's by 6.3 per cent.

Observers of the energy sector have noted that official GDP figures do not square with a sharply slower growth in electricity demand.

Electricity consumption in many parts of China has declined this year for the first time in two decades. That is seen as an indication of the slowdown in the Chinese economy, according to one state-run newspaper.

Wang Ce, 54, who left China in 1984 to prepare his doctorate in political science and has lived in Hawaii and Spain, where he was given political asylum, was arrested after entering China from Portuguese Macau and travelling to the central city of Hangzhou.

At the same time, China announced yesterday that its economy grew by a remarkable

there were about 30 million laid-off workers still receiving part of their pay; they had 50 million dependants. Communist Marxists led by Mr Deng have made no secret of their opposition to the sweeping reforms endorsed by the party this past year and aimed at thrusting state firms into the marketplace.

In the meantime, a Chinese dissident who lives in Spain and who was detained last month after entering China may stand trial soon for "endangering state security", a Hong Kong human rights group said.

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A queen-size mattress is carried from the High Court in Kuala Lumpur. A government chemist says stains on the bedding incriminate Anwar Ibrahim



Shamsidar stains said to link her with Anwar

DNA test 'does link Anwar to love nest'

FROM REUTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

A GOVERNMENT chemist told a Malaysian court yesterday that stains found on a mattress were from Anwar Ibrahim, the sacked Finance Minister, and the wife of his former private secretary.

Lim Kong Boon started the sex and corruption trial by saying that his DNA analysis showed 13 stains were from Mr Anwar, Shamsidar Taharin, another male and two other women. He did not identify the others. Mr Lim added that the possibility of another Malay male from Malaysia having the same DNA profile as the sperm stains attributed to Mr Anwar was "approximately one in 59 billion".

The prosecution said the mattress was from a flat where Mr Anwar had been roomed to have held trysts with Mrs Shamsidar. The defence implied it could have been from his former official residence, which he shared with his wife and family.

The trial continues today.

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Office World Sale advertisement featuring various office equipment like computers, printers, and desks with prices and promotional offers.

Dell Inspiron advertisement for a 1999 Technology January Sale, listing various laptop models like the Dimension V400 and XPS R450 with their specifications and sale prices.

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Sihanouk: international trial "would be right"

Sihanouk rejects amnesty demand

FROM CAROLINE GLUCK IN PHNOM PENH

KING Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia has said that he is not willing to grant any amnesty to two top Khmer Rouge leaders who announced a few days ago that they had defected to the government side. He added that an international tribunal would have the perfect right to try them for crimes against humanity.

The King's comments appear to challenge assurances given this week by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, that the defectors were not likely to face an international hearing because such a trial would be too divisive and that it would be better to bury the past.

Khieu Samphan, the former nominal leader of the guerrilla movement, and Nuon Chea, his chief ideologue, are in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, for meetings with senior government ministers.

The pair received VIP treatment from the Prime Minister on Tuesday, but King Sihanouk's comments appear to reflect increasing anger felt by many ordinary Cambodians about the likelihood that the two senior Khmer Rouge leaders will escape any public accountability for their part in the movement's reign of terror in the late 1970s.

Yesterday, in statements from London and Paris, Britain and France added their weight to America's call for the two Khmer Rouge men to be put on trial.

Tornado patrol fired at in Iraq skirmish

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

BRITISH Tornado pilots came under heavy missile fire over southern Iraq yesterday as a defiant Baghdad again underlined its challenge to the "no-fly" zones over its territory. Two US F16s retaliated by firing missiles and laser-guided bombs on the Iraqi missile site.

Iraq announced last night that American fire had killed a farmer and had wounded two other civilians in a village in southern Iraq. No mention was made of military casualties. Officials at the Pentagon confirmed that US and British aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Iraq had fired at American warplanes over the north of the country on Monday shortly after declaring it would shoot down any enemy aircraft that violated its sovereignty. Baghdad said it lost four soldiers in that clash. The incidents highlight Iraq's determination to goad Britain and America into further military action as it attempts to exploit divisions within the international community in the wake of Operation Desert Fox.

"It was obviously a hostile act. The missiles were fired in the near vicinity of the aircraft," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

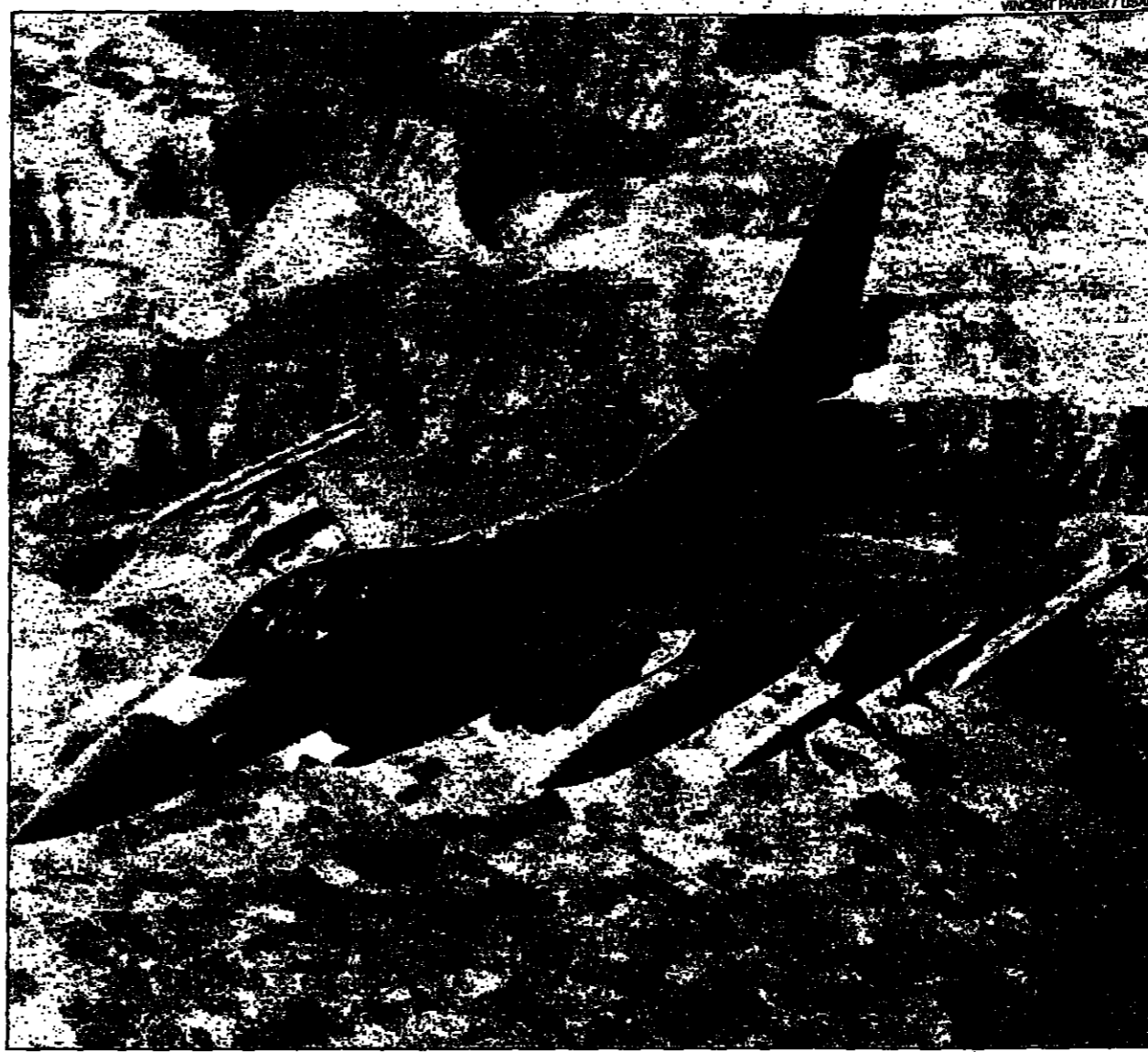
The missile fire was spotted by one of the four British Tornado GR1s on a routine patrol with 20 American aircraft.

Washington said between six and eight surface-to-air missiles were fired from a site southwest of Tallil in southern Iraq. "In response to that unprovoked attack, we responded, firing two Harm missiles, and we dropped a number of precision-guided munitions," Major Joe LaMarca, a spokesman for US Central Command in Tampa, Florida, said.

The allied patrols fly in "packages" that include reconnaissance aircraft and warplanes with offensive capability to defend against attack. The Tornados can fulfil either function but were thought to be on reconnaissance duty yesterday. There was no challenge to more than 20 allied aircraft patrolling the northern no-fly zone from their base at Incirlik in southern Turkey.

The White House said the zones would continue to be vigorously enforced and allied planes would take the necessary precautions to defend themselves. "This is a key element of our containment policy to prevent Saddam Hussein from using his aircraft to threaten his own people and his neighbours," said David Leavy, the national security spokesman.

The two attacks this week have demonstrated Iraq's ability to threaten Western aircraft despite four days of airstrikes during Operation Desert Fox, although it seems the Iraqi



An American F16CJ plane, based at Incirlik in Turkey, patrols the skies of the northern Iraqi no-fly zone

missiles do not have the guidance systems to home in on targets. However, keen to portray itself as the defiant victim of imperial aggression, Baghdad may believe that it can still score propaganda points by firing blind despite the inevitable retaliation.

The Ministry of Defence said there was no need to boost the size of the patrols "as we have always ensured we have the capability to defend ourselves".

The air exclusion zones over northern and southern Iraq have assumed new importance for British and American attempts to contain Saddam after the departure of United Nations weapons inspectors on the eve of Operation Desert Fox earlier this month.

They were established with the ostensible humanitarian motive of protecting Iraq's



Kurdish and Shia communities, which rebelled after the 1991 Gulf War, from Saddam's vengeful forces.

However, US officials have made no secret that they are also used to keep the Iraqi leader "in his box". Spy planes monitor Saddam's military movements while his air power has been eroded by the limited

ability of Iraqi pilots to train. The zones also offer a degree of protection for Iraqi rebels who now want "no-drive" zones for Saddam's military to match those in the skies.

For these reasons, Saddam has given the zones top priority as he attempts to capitalise on the diplomatic fallout of the recent airstrikes to challenge all international restrictions on Iraq. Baghdad yesterday called on the UN Security Council to debate the zones, claiming they were never authorised by international law.

Washington and London argue that Resolution 688, which rules that Iraq cannot hurt its own population, provides the legal basis for the zones. Their position was undermined when France withdrew from patrolling the northern zone two years ago and refused to participate in policing part of

the southern zone that was extended in 1996. Britain has four Jaguars based at Incirlik to patrol the Kurdish zone north of the 36th parallel and 18 Tornados, 12 in Kuwait and six in Saudi Arabia, flying over the southern zone that extends to the 33rd parallel.

The much larger American force includes F16 fighter jets, F15 strike planes, E3 Awaacs warning and control planes, and U2 espionage planes. □ Washington: President Clinton and President Yeltsin expressed their differences over Iraq but agreed not to allow that to disrupt American-Russian relations, a White House official said.

Mr Clinton called Mr Yeltsin from the Oval Office shortly before leaving for a holiday in South Carolina. The 40-minute conversation was their first since they met in Moscow in September. (AP)

Robocat to rescue old and lonely

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THOUSANDS of elderly Japanese living alone will soon have a cuddly "talking cat" in their homes, with the start of a government scheme to use robots to ease the problems of an ageing population.

The hi-tech robot cats, which have been developed by Matsushita, the electronics giant, are designed to communicate with owners and combat loneliness.

The three-year project, which has been sponsored by the Health and Welfare Ministry, has given birth to Tama, the prototype of the brave new world of robot tabbies that will dawn next spring. Tama, 9½in high, may not be as clever as real cats, but she is more sweet-natured and obedient.

Tama's furry coat conceals sophisticated electronic circuitry and sensors that enable her to distinguish between people's voices, and to respond to simple questions and greetings with words.

With a memory of 50 different phrases, her replies are rendered in a perky, female voice. A grumpy old person who scolds her will be answered with a good-natured query: "Why don't you play with me?" When stroked, Tama wiggles her ears and shifts her paws. "We got the inspiration from animal therapy, which experts believe can delay dementia," Matsushita said.



Tama: touted as antidote to senile dementia

MAMMALS REPLACED THE DINOSAURS BECAUSE THEY WERE FASTER, SMALLER AND MORE AGGRESSIVE.

(Charles Darwin)



The train in the photograph is a ETR500 built by Consorzio Treno



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Tyisha Miller: was sitting in her car

Killing by police stirs LA race fear

By GILES WHITTELL

THE spectre of racial unrest has returned to a Los Angeles suburb with the apparently unprovoked police shooting of a black woman, 19, as she sat in her car at a petrol station. Tyisha Shenece Miller was foaming at the mouth after suffering a seizure when police fired 27 rounds into her car, killing her instantly, according to witnesses. The incident happened in Riverside. The four officers, three white and one Hispanic, were on leave yesterday after their police chief withdrew a claim that they had been acting in self-defence after the woman had fired a shot. Two investigations of the incident were under way after tense meetings between police officials and local black leaders, one of whom said: "There could be big ramifications behind something like this if we don't handle it correctly."

Republicans at odds over Clinton trial

WITH President Clinton squarely in their sights, Republicans are again proving to be the gang that cannot shoot straight. They were at odds with each other yesterday over how to proceed with the impeachment trial in the Senate. Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee who will be prosecutors at the trial want to call a string of important witnesses. They include Monica Lewinsky, who would describe her sexual relations with Mr Clinton, Betty Currie, his personal secretary who gathered up the couple's gifts, Linda Tripp, who blew the whistle on the affair, and Vernon Jordan, the President's friend who tried to get Ms Lewinsky a private sector job. There are also persistent reports that the prosecutors, or some of them, want to introduce new allegations, about a woman on whom Mr Clinton allegedly forced himself 20 years ago. Horrified by the thought of prolonged, embarrassing evidence and cross-examination within their hallowed walls, Senate Republicans are pressing instead for a fast, witness trial. Their leader, Trent Lott, has proposed a two-week programme. He wants the trial to start on Monday, January 11, and be finished by January 22. A surreal convergence would occur on January

Ian Brodie reports on White House delight at squabbles over impeachment

19 when Mr Clinton would undergo a transformation from defendant to honoured guest to give his annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress. "Are witnesses required? I don't think so," said Mr Lott, suggesting that the record based on the report of Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, would be sufficient. House Republicans, outranked by the Senate, were angry about the Lott plan for an abbreviated trial. "It would be like swimming the English Channel with your feet tied," one aide complained. At the White House there were amused comments about offering to hold the Republicans' coats while they slug it out. Mr Clinton's lawyers obviously prefer Mr Lott's two-week idea, but were keeping quiet about it. Mr Clinton is accused of perjury and obstruction of justice. He admits that he misled the grand jury, but denies lying. Mr Lott wants to dispose of

the issue quickly because he seems to have accepted the improbability of Mr Clinton being found guilty and removed from office by two thirds of the Senate, 67 votes. After the acquittal, however, Mr Lott would move to the idea of censuring the President. In a sub-plott, cable networks that have rebelled heavily on the Lewinsky scandal for the past year are furious at the suggestion that the Senate should hear evidence in closed sessions. Fred Graham, chief anchor for Court TV, protested yesterday that senators' fears about children hearing explicit evidence were exaggerated. In a bizarre coincidence, Mr Clinton sent a wreath to the Tennessee grave of Andrew Johnson, the only other President to be impeached. Mr Clinton was not acting out of special sympathy for him, but in keeping with a custom in which the sitting President pays his respects to previous presidents on their birthdays. In the running, John McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona who spent nearly six years as a prisoner of war after he was shot down over Hanoi, took his first step towards running for president by forming an official exploratory committee. He is regarded as anti-establishment, but deep down is a conservative Reagan Republican.



Nkem Chukwu, 27, the mother of seven surviving octuplets, is wheeled into a news conference yesterday in Houston, Texas, by her husband, Lyke Udobi, 41. She was later released from hospital, but their five girls and two boys remained critically ill

US alarm at craze for Nazi drug high

By IAN BRODIE

A LETHAL drug known as Nazi crank is sweeping the Midwest states of America. It is a home-cooked methamphetamine that is said to have originated in Hitler's Germany, where it was used as a stimulant to stay awake by battle-weary soldiers and factory workers. Its spread has become so rapid that Tom Vilsack, the incoming Governor of Iowa, is considering calling out the National Guard. He declared: "We must address this problem forcefully. There are not enough resources being dedicated to this battle. Local police are swamped." The "kick" is described as greater and longer lasting than cocaine. It is also cheaper: the price for a gram is \$100 (£60). Its popularity is greatest among poor rural whites. Users quickly become totally addicted. A 34-year-old woman described to CBS News how she lost her children, her home and almost her life to Nazi crank. She said: "You steal, lie, cheat. You don't care what you do to get your next fix." Desperate, she tried to hang herself in a shower and was saved only when the belt she was using broke. A man displayed the ingredients for making Nazi crank: cold tablets, alcohol, the lithium contained in batteries and toxic anhydrous ammonia stolen from farm fertiliser supplies. The drug can be smoked, injected or snorted.

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A typical website listing of a sex offender in Virginia

Worried parents jam website as state outs sex offenders

By IAN BRODIE

ACROSS America, states are posting the names, faces and addresses of released violent sex offenders on the Internet. Yesterday Virginia joined a rapidly expanding trend that gives parents the power to find potential neighbourhood predators at the click of a mouse. Within hours, the website had been jammed by callers. Civil liberties lawyers expressed fears about a loss of privacy and a potential for harassment by neigh-

bours or vigilantes that could make the rehabilitation of sex offenders so difficult they could be driven to repeat their crimes. The Virginia state police site lists more than 4,600 names, home addresses, convictions and photographs. It was set up under a law passed by state legislators. "This is the Scarlet Letter approach to rehabilitation," said Kent Willis, Virginia state director of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was referring to the Nathaniel Hawthorne novel set in

Puritan New England where an arrested was forced to wear a red 'A' on her garments. Mr Willis accused legislators of being hypocrites who had "punted" the issue rather than dealing with it. He said that criminals should be punished and then assisted in their rehabilitation and reintegration. Virginia had replaced that with discrimination. He conceded that sex offenders were a difficult class, but said they should be monitored constantly by social workers rather than suffer public exposure.

A former sex offender on the Web registry told The Washington Post that he had married, was managing a shop and had devoted his life to God since leaving prison six years ago. Now he fears he may have to move. Wayne Huggins, superintendent of Virginia state police, played down the possibility of vigilantes, saying it was an offence under the law to use registry information to harass or intimidate sex offenders. Making communities aware when dangerous sex offenders

move became legal under "Megan's Law", signed by President Clinton two years ago. It was named after Megan Kanka, seven, who was raped and killed by a sex offender who moved into a house across the street from her New Jersey home. The law did not specify how communities should be told but other states where the Web is used, either through official channels or by private groups, are Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, North Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin. In Tennessee the idea has

been ruled illegal. In Oregon, it is in limbo after a state Supreme Court ruling that a rapist's rights had been violated because he had been labelled predatory without a hearing. The Virginia registry covers those who have been convicted of rape, attempted rape, forcible sodomy, fondling of children and marital sexual battery. A separate registry of non-violent sexual offenders is available to schools and nurseries, but it has not been posted on the Internet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia raft 'backs trip theory'

Sydney: A voyage on a bamboo raft designed to prove Australia's first settlers were from Asia was hailed a success yesterday, although the crew had to abandon their flimsy craft just before making landfall. The 50ft *Nale Tashi* set sail from Timor on December 17 and had almost completed the 440 nautical miles when heavy seas and strong winds blew it off course near Darwin.

Yacht race row

Sydney: The row intensified over whether the Sydney to Hobart yacht race - which cost the lives of six - should have been abandoned after weather forecasters said that they had given a warning of appalling conditions 24 hours before the start.

Indonesia riot

Jakarta: A mob of 1,000 in Indonesia's Aceh province went on the rampage in a second day of violence. Eight soldiers have died. An army official said that a police station was set alight and a military post attacked. (Reuters)

Bhutto travels

Karachi: A court overturned a government travel ban on Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani opposition leader and former Prime Minister, and allowed her to leave the country to visit relatives in Dubai. (Reuters)

Basque choice

Vitoria: Juan José Ibarretxe, of the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, was elected president of Spain's Basque region after the political wing of the Euzkadi separatist group voted for the first time. (AFP)

Tajik gunbattle

Dushanbe: Five people were killed and four wounded in central Dushanbe when rival bands of the main opposition party in Tajikistan opened fire on each other, the Interior Ministry said. (Reuters)

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Worried parents jam website as state outs sex offenders

hours or vigilantes that could make the rehabilitation of sex offenders so difficult they could be driven to repeat their crimes. The Virginia state police site lists more than 4,600 names, home addresses, convictions and photographs. It was set up under a law passed by state legislators. "This is the Scarlet Letter approach to rehabilitation," said Kent Willis, Virginia state director of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was referring to the Nathaniel Hawthorne novel set in

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Set your heart on health



Dr Thomas Stuttford on new year's resolutions; depression; beer drinking; hypothermia, and the best new drugs

If it were true, as is commonly believed, that there are as many medical opinions as there are doctors, it would be hard to base any health-giving new year's resolutions on hard facts.

Most resolutions are broken within weeks, days — even hours, and, given the common attitude, the lay person might argue that if doctors can't agree, it hardly seems worth starting. In truth, doctors agree more than is realised. Recently there has been more evidence that we can take up with the knowledge that we will be better for them.

Britain has one of the worst records for heart disease in the Western world, but recommended lifestyle changes designed to reduce it also eradicate simple indulgences which make inner city life sweeter. It would be terrible if doctors, for instance, persuaded the Scots (and not a few English) to give up cigarettes and deep fried Mars Bars only to discover that eating fresh vegetables instead made no discernible difference to their longevity.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* has recently reported on a five-year randomised trial de-



The heart of the matter: the key to a sustained improvement in lifestyle is to discover why an unhealthy person eats, drinks or smokes too much

signed to assess the effect of radical changes in lifestyle on atherosclerosis, furring up of the arteries, and hence angina. Angina is the pain, usually felt in the chest, when the heart muscle receives too little oxygen in the blood as the result of narrowing of the coronary arteries from atherosclerosis.

The authors recruited 28 patients prepared to adopt a 10 per cent fat whole food diet, take regular aerobic exercise, receive stress management training, stop smoking and enrol in a psychosocial support group. Not the sort of life which everybody would care for, and eight of the original 28 soon dropped out. These people were compared with an equal number of controls who continued to smoke and eat daily eggs, sunny side up with hash browns. They did, however, take regular exercise.

The 20 people who followed these good resolutions for the whole five years were regularly examined. After one year there had, on average, been a 4.5 per cent improvement in coronary artery narrowing and after five years there was a 7.9 per cent improvement.

The doctors, from the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in San Francisco, compared these results with those of the controls who continued with their 25 per cent fat and pre-existing exercise. After one year, the narrowing in their coronary arteries worsened by 5.4 per cent and by 27.7 per cent after five years.

Improvement in the diameter of the coronary arteries was reflected by a reduction in chest pain. Those with radical lifestyle changes, who regularly went to their psychosocial support groups and the gym,

found that they had 91 per cent less angina after a year and still had 72 per cent less after five years. In controls, the frequency of attacks of angina increased by 186 per cent during the first year. After five years, however, anginal attacks decreased but only because some of the control patients needed angioplasty, the clearing of a coronary artery by expanding it with a balloon.

The lead author of the report, Dr Dean Ornish, is quoted in *The Lancet* as saying that this study shows that "intensive lifestyle changes can stop and even reverse the effects of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries. The problem is getting people to change. Fear of dying was a short-term motivator but the key was to help people to discover why they smoked, drank and ate too much."

Sudden loss that leads to depression

THE film *Mrs Brown*, recently shown on television, dramatised the relationship between Queen Victoria and her ghillie John Brown and clearly illustrated the abnormal grief she suffered after the death of her consort Prince Albert.

Queen Victoria had lost something — in her case someone — who seemed to her to be irreplaceable. She weathered the bewilderment in the first stage of the grief response, the anger which comes later, but had then become caught in the depressed phase.

The Queen did not speak, was irritable, ate sparingly, lost interest in the affairs of state and could not be roused to go out and about on her estates.

If, 130 years ago, we had had Prozac, Serenid, Lustral or any others of the 5HT reuptake inhibitors, Queen Victoria would have been opening Parliament, chivvying Disraeli and bullying Gladstone many years earlier — and without the support of John Brown's determined interference.

Peter Mandelson and Queen Victoria

may not, at first sight seem to have much in common, other than that they both appeared on Christmas television.

In fact the loss of a job, particularly if it is as a result of controversy, is a common cause of grief.

Grieving is not confined to sorrowing over the death of a loved one, the same response: bewilderment, aggression and blame followed by depression and eventually care, can occur when anything treasured and nurtured — including a career — is suddenly lost.

Peter Mandelson may become angry about his lost position before, if ever, he becomes more than momentarily depressed.

A noteworthy aspect of grief is that the timings vary from person to person and incident for years: after some disasters, aggrieved relatives are angry and vengeful for a decade.

It will be interesting to see how Mr Mandelson will be affected by this, to him, catastrophic episode.

Grieving can occur when anything treasured is lost



Peter Mandelson: out and down?

Why beer can be good for what ails you

ALTHOUGH the advantage of drinking wine to preserve health has been emphasised, recent research has shown that beer, which is rich in folates, can also be beneficial in moderation.

We all know people who seem to live on beer. Many may get away with it, but some suffer.

The *International Journal of Clinical Practice* has reported the particularly sad case of a man who became demented

because of very low blood sodium levels after enjoying, for many years, a diet composed almost entirely of beer.

This 56-year-old man lived at home, although he had twice been admitted to hospital with hypothermia and at other times had suffered from

chest infections and fractures resulting from falls.

One day he was found collapsed; although he appeared very drowsy, he was able to answer simple questions. There was no evidence of any liver disease but, consistent with his collapse, his blood pres-

sure was very low. There were no other physical signs at this stage. His serum sodium was, however, seriously diminished — the condition known as hyponatraemia. This was partly a result of his huge fluid intake.

Treating patients with severely low blood sodium levels is as tricky as treating the starving. Just as, when Belsen was relieved, many of the camp's former inmates died because they were given too much food too soon, so may someone who has hyponatraemia suffer if the level is boosted too quickly.

What can happen is that the effectiveness of part of the brain is destroyed. There may also be disruption of the brain's connections with the tracts of the spinal cord, so that the patient — if he or she survives — suffers generalised paralysis and an inability to swallow.

Although the standard rules for treatment of hyponatraemic patients were followed in this case, it transpired that the man's sodium levels were corrected too quickly. He developed neurological complications and died five weeks later.



Ale and hearty: in moderation, beer can be beneficial to health as it is rich in folates

Chilling menace of the cold

THE tragic death of Sally Greig in Perth illustrates several features of acute accidental hypothermia. She attempted to walk home despite being inadequately clothed against the bitter east winds, and she determinedly turned down the offer of a lift by a family who saw her struggling on the road. A characteristic of acute hypothermia, once the body temperature has fallen below 32C (90F), is that the person is not only generally confused, weary, weak, drowsy, apathetic and unco-ordinated, but also very, even absurdly, bold and resistant to help. People with hypothermia are also tempted to lie down and rest even though this makes the condition worse.

Acute hypothermia, in a Perth field or on Ben Nevis, is readily diagnosed because of the circumstances. More often missed is chronic hypothermia, which affects thousands of older people every year who cannot afford adequate warmth. Many show signs of hypothermia if their rooms are kept at less than 18C (65F), which is cold enough to reduce the body temperature to under 34C (95F). The elderly can become accustomed to cold temperatures even though they may be lethal, as their perception of warmth and heat, and the bodily reaction to chilling, is reduced by age. Older people — with such diseases as thyroid problems or heart failure; immobile with arthritis; or taking such drugs as beta blockers or tranquillisers, particularly major tranquillisers such as Largactil or Stelazine — are predisposed to trouble. Likewise, too little food or too much alcohol can reduce resistance to cold. St Bernards, with a flask of brandy around their neck, make a charming Victorian painting, but alcohol dilates skin blood vessels and enables the body to cool even faster. The time for the drink is when warming in front of a fire.

Premium Bonds

From 1 April 1999 the tax-free rate of interest used to calculate the Premium Bond monthly prize draw will be 4.5%. From this date, the prize fund will be allocated 10% to higher value prizes (£5,000 - £1,000,000), 10% to medium (£500 and £1,000) and 80% to lower value prizes (£50 and £100).

- ◆ There will continue to be one prize for every 19,000 £1 bonds
- ◆ There will be a monthly £1 million jackpot
- ◆ The total number of prizes in April is estimated at 626,538
- ◆ The total prize fund in April will be nearly £40 million*

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So little time, so much still to do

In a new year of doom-laden prophecies, Magnus Linklater makes a Pepsian resolution

On 31 December 1668, 330 years ago, Samuel Pepys closed the last full year in which he would keep a diary. His eyes were beginning to cause him serious trouble, his long-suffering wife was not long for this world, the Navy, which had occupied so much of his life, was horrendously in debt, "which grieves me to the heart." But in spite of all, he signed off determined to make the best of things: "... and so, with great pleasure to supper and to bed," he wrote, "and, blessed be to God the year ends, after some late very great sorrow with my wife by my folly, yet ends I say, with great mutual peace and content, and likely to last so by my care, who am resolved to enjoy the sweet of it..."

Which is as good a resolution as I can propose for a new year which arrives bearing more doom-laden prophecies than any I can remember. My own diary might, for instance, describe our deteriorating climate which wrought the sad destruction of some mighty trees in last weekend's gales, including the ancient Costorphine sycamore which has graced Edinburgh since the 16th century, but which was snapped in two by a 90-mile-an-hour gust on Saturday night. It would probably note my recurring back trouble, a very Pepsian complaint which makes the route to my shoe laces increasingly painful; and it would record a conversation with my sister in New York who tells me the latest gossip: that the millennium bug will destroy 15 per cent of the world's computer systems, though no one is quite sure which 15 per cent; that no-one will be safe to travel at the turn of the year; and that it will take seven years for the world to recover. Enough, one might think, to justify staying in bed with a cold compress and one of Mrs Pepys's plum pies until the whole ghastly thing is over.

But no, I am resolved instead to enjoy the sweet of it. I used to think that this involved the luxury of time, and that the best resolution of all was to determine that time became the servant rather than the master of one's life. There were so many pleasures waiting to be indulged - romantic places to be visited, wise books to be read, that kind of thing. I had always assumed it would be a gradual process: that as the years advanced, one would stand back from the rigours of life and take time to savour its rewards. But what once seemed desirable, even inevitable, has begun to recede, like the fleeting end of a rainbow. I have less rather than more time at my disposal; I have fewer holidays, more insistent schedules, a never-ending programme of pressing demands. I am beginning to wonder whether real time exists at all. So what went wrong? One

I refuse to take to my bed with a plum pie and a cold compress

obvious culprit has been that great labour-saving device, modern technology. The digital revolution, the Internet, the e-mail, all of which promised more leisure time - "leaving you free to do the things you want to do" as the slogan goes - are a snare and a delusion: they fill time rather than release it. Presented with a state-of-the-art computer containing rows of inviting icons and endless databases, we feel a compulsion to use it. Why spend £2,000 on a brand-new system if it just sits blankly in the corner, making us feel vaguely guilty? We waste endless hours grappling with something we only dimly understand in order to acquire skills we never needed in the first place. And as soon as we have done so there is a brand new model on the market, rendering our new-found knowledge redundant. We have to start again.

That does not, however, explain the absurd compulsion, particularly among those of us prone to middle age, to speed up, rather than slow down. I suppose it is all to do with fear - the fear of being left behind. In a world where events move ever faster around us. Old jobs don't last as long as they once did; finding new ones is a nagging concern. To step back for an instant is to risk losing out on the whole process; and since this is the self-professed era of the "achiever", there is a constant need to achieve something, anything.

Enjoying the sweet of it in these circumstances seems an impossible dream. But some manage. I talked to a friend this week who has carefully prepared his early retirement at 60, an event which will take place next year. He has planned as little as possible in order to give himself maximum flexibility; but one thing he knows he will do is embark on a project he has dreamed of for years - to build a gigantic model of a British warship. It will be meticulously accurate, a labour of love, and it will take him a very long time. The more he talked about it the happier he seemed.

I envied him. Then I thought about it. And then I began to feel uneasy. I have no warship to build. I have mislaid that list of unread books. Some of the romantic places I want to see can, I feel, wait just a little longer. The idea of swapping no time for too much time filled me with alarm. I thought of Andrew Marvell's lines: "But at my back I always hear/Time's winged chariot hurrying near." And I remember, has begun to recede, like the fleeting end of a rainbow. I have less rather than more time at my disposal; I have fewer holidays, more insistent schedules, a never-ending programme of pressing demands. I am beginning to wonder whether real time exists at all. So what went wrong? One

comment@the-times.co.uk



Happy birthday, euro

After a gestation blighted by chicanery and complacency, one can only wish EMU well

New Year's Eve 1998: the last day of the old Europe. With the single currency due to be launched tomorrow, it has naturally been fashionable to look ahead to the great adventure of economic and monetary union. But today it seems appropriate to look back along the road which has brought Europe to the threshold of full economic unification.

The road begins, of course, deep in the mists of history. Whether one dates the ambition to unify the whole of Europe under a single system of government to Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Marx or Hitler, it is clear that tomorrow's events can trace their ancestry far beyond the final postwar settlement of Franco-German animosities with the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1956. But, rather than dwelling on the prehistory of the EU and the founding fathers of EMU, I want to take up the story more recently - and concentrate on the economic developments of the past ten years or so.

Tomorrow's inauguration of the single currency will doubtless be seen as a posthumous triumph for the authors of the Maastricht treaty, above all for Jacques Delors, Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand. These great European visionaries ignored their sceptical economic advisers. They defied their own voters. They bent their national accounting rules. And they over-rode the pedantic objections of economists and central bankers to starting the single currency with Italy and Spain. At every stage their risky decisions were derided.

Yet in every one of these gambles, they were ultimately vindicated and their critics confounded. That, at least, is how things now appear to the kind of politicians who judge themselves not by whether they have done anything beneficial for their countries, but by whether they have "earned a place in history", by swimming with the tide of events. This triumphalist interpretation is logically irrational, politically anti-democratic and dangerously complacent from an economic point of view. To begin with logic: why should anyone believe that the supporters of EMU have been vindicated and its detractors confounded merely because the single currency has been launched? Many intelligent eurosceptics have believed for years that EMU

would go ahead on time. What they questioned was not whether EMU would happen, but whether it should happen. I, for one, have consistently described EMU as inevitable and a "done deal" since January 1996, when the French Government caved into a wave of strikes against its proposals to cut public spending and decided instead to meet the Maastricht budgetary conditions by manipulating its Treasury accounts. Many commentators, including some ardent advocates of EMU, concluded from this chicanery that the single currency was dead. But to me it seemed obvious that France's creative accounting had guaranteed a timely start for EMU, since all European governments would now be able to meet the Maastricht criteria with equal ease.

Democracy raises another political objection to the triumphalism about EMU. The creation of the single currency can be considered a triumph only if it is taken for granted that voters' opinions should be ignored. After all, voters rejected with monotonous consistency the leaders who signed the Maastricht treaty - and voted against their successors who put it into effect. After last year's annihilation of the Gaullist Government in France, after September's defeat of Helmut Kohl in Germany and after the recent removal of Roman Prodi as Italian Prime Minister, it is hard to see why the launch of the single currency should be accounted a political triumph, unless it is assumed (as is the case all too often in continental Europe) that political leadership consists of ramming unpopular policies down the throats of protesting voters.

Such an assumption might be justified if such policies were building the foundations for future economic progress or curing a deep-seated social malaise. But the preparations for EMU have had exactly the opposite effect. For all but a handful of small countries, such as The

Netherlands and Ireland, the ten years leading up to EMU have been a period of miserable economic under-performance. It is easy to forget that continental Europe was, until the mid-1980s, a far more dynamic economy than America or Britain, that unemployment was lower in Germany and France than in Britain and America in almost every year up to 1985, and that European growth rates were typically double those in the Anglo-Saxon countries. How different the picture looks today, with unemployment in France almost double the British level and three times higher than in the US, with industrial capital flooding out of Germany and with even the small businesses of Northern Italy losing their dynamism.

What has all this to do with EMU? A great deal. Europe's declining growth and its soaring unemployment can be linked directly to the excessively monetary deflationary policy of the Bundesbank in the period after the brief unification boom of 1990-91. In the 1980s the Bundesbank ensured that Germany suffered the lowest growth rate among the major industrialised countries, but France, Italy and Spain were able to grow considerably faster, doing as well as Britain and even America. From 1988 onwards, however, trying to keep exchange rates fixed against the German mark and shadowing the monetary policy of the Bundesbank became the primary objective of one European country after another. As a direct result, economic growth declined throughout Europe and unemployment soared.

Of course, the preparations for EMU could not be blamed for the whole of Europe's relative economic decline. The sluggish growth and appalling employment record were also attributable to all kinds of "structural" problems - excessive taxes, rigid labour rules, over-regulated financial markets, backward-looking training and education systems,

social security arrangements which discourage low-paid work. But even these social handicaps are closely linked to EMU. As long as economic growth was constrained by the Bundesbank's monetarist interest rate policies and overly strong exchange rates, there could be no hope of reducing unemployment. And high unemployment, in turn, guaranteed political pressures for more labour regulation, more public spending and more social security, rather than less. To put it another way, the stunted growth that Europe has suffered throughout the decade of pre-EMU "convergence" has been the main cause of the present structural unemployment, with all its attendant social and economic costs.

Will any of this change now that the single currency is starting? The euro-booster would have us believe that the past decade of miserable economic under-performance has had nothing to do with EMU - indeed, that it demonstrates why EMU is so essential. Once the single currency is in place, claim the EMU enthusiasts, European governments will no longer have to worry about defending their currencies against speculation and Europe as a whole will finally have a currency capable of competing against the dollar "on an equal basis". Better still, Europe will have a central bank, setting monetary policy for the whole continent, in the style of the US Federal Reserve Board, instead of being forced to follow the narrow-minded monetarist dictates of the Bundesbank.

Perhaps. But isn't it equally likely that the European idea of competing against the dollar will be to drive the euro up instead of down? And isn't it almost certain that the new European Central Bank will prove even more narrow-minded and deflationary than the Bundesbank? In that case, won't European unemployment rise even higher as a result of EMU, won't social spending accelerate and won't all the structural problems become even more intractable? But now I am delving into the future. There will be time enough for that in 1999. First, I must wish the euro a happy birthday and readers (especially those outside Euroland) a happy new year.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk

Anatole Kaletsky

Fear and the couch potato

Simon Barnes on the flip-side of domesticity

This is a time of year that suggests under the weight of its own contradictions. On the one hand, we celebrate all that is most cosy in the human condition: family life, up to and including the domestic life of God. Vast quantities of food are stored and consumed; we exchange vast quantities of socks. These are gifts of warmth, gifts of protection against the fear-filled outside world. Thus we give not so much the warmth of wool as the warmth of love. The warmth of family life.

Come the Boxing Day contradiction: traditionally, a day of cold and outdoors and often of dangers. Every hunting person goes out to ride, in the fire of Sturges, as if he had a spare neck in his pocket. Others seek other dangers of a rich and fascinating kind. This week caught me riding out on Newmarket Heath: the stable lads around me swapping gossip while, with remarkable insouciance, they sat the bucks and plunges of daft yearlings; prepared to run a mile at the rustle of a toilet-paper. The Christmas contradiction in a single instant.

Good luck to them, we say; good luck to those who seek the dangers. We even envy them, as I envied the lads their skill and their crazy little horses from the top deck of a trainer's gentlemanly hack.

Yet this seizing of dangers brings with it dangers beyond the reach of *Homo malumerrae*, the couch potato. The death of the four climbers in the Scottish avalanche, and the death by heroism of four travellers in Yemen, make this brutally clear. These were not professional adventurers, like the British yachtsman who died in the Sydney-Hobart yachting race. These were ordinary people who chose to spend Christmas in pursuit of Christmas's flipside: purging themselves of overmuch domesticity, they embraced adventure. Alas, it killed them.

Christmas has always been a contradiction. Ecclesiastically, it is designed as such. The cosiest of all religious days is followed by one of the cruelest, the death by stoning of St Stephen. The day of the Holy Innocents, the feast of dead babies, follows what Canon Charles Smith, a great figure of my youth, called "the birthday garland of martyrs".

These days, both saints and dangers are harder to find. But the human urge for domesticity, warm socks and hospitable hearths, is as ever contradicted by a longing for cold hillsides and inhospitable lands. These eight fallen mountaineers, people not devoid of a certain holy innocence in themselves, seem to have done nothing reckless. The Yemen travellers were with a firm that specialises in such adventures: the climbers were properly equipped and accompanied by a guide.

They were not exactly reckless: on the other hand, they didn't have quite as much rock as the aforementioned *Homo malumerrae*. They were not seeking death, or even very great danger: for all that, danger and death is what they found. What they seem to have been seeking is one of the essential parts of human experience - one increasingly hard to find.

We get all kinds of talk about Adventure and Challenge. But this is to dress it all up in a kind of macho frock: Man the Hunter, Man the Conqueror. "Human beings are programmed to rise to challenges," Sir Robin Knox-Johnston wrote in this space earlier this week.

But this staid and innocent octet was not seeking challenges. They were not seeking, as Knox-Johnston said of the dropped yachtsman, to be "at the top of the evolutionary tree". They were seeking something more important than that: they were seeking human completeness.

They were seeking fear. Fear goes far deeper than any of this Man the Hunter stuff. On the contrary, fear is something to do with a far older human reality: that of being a prey animal. Fear is something to do with being a trespasser in a world of larger and better-armed fellow animals. Earlier this year, I spent a week on terms of the closest intimacy with a pride of lion.

I knew fear and fascination, in roughly the proportions I take Tabasco sauce and chips. Both ingredients being crucial to the experience. If things had gone wrong, I would have been just another adventurer's news story, just another column. But I was not seeking a challenge. I was just seeking wilderness. The physical landscape, and the spiritual one.

So were the fallen innocents. I bleed a little for them. I touch wood, I say there but for the grace of God. But I will get on a horse again; already I am planning once again to walk with lion. Fear completes us: fear joins up the domestic circle. Inside most of us there is something that seeks, as it were, the perfect bungee jump: the hinged, complete sense of fear, combined with the safest and strongest umbilical cord that will bring us, into the cosiness of domestic life. Domestic life is all the warmer for the cold outside: all the safer for the fear we can find beyond. Just pray that the cord never snaps.

JASPER GERARD comment@the-times.co.uk

Scoops and scandals: a year at Diary Towers

IT was the year when the New Establishment began to flex its muscles, but also to experience its first setbacks. As Tony's friends hit the headlines, the ancient régime struggled to make an impact...

■ THE demise of charming Peter "Wendy" Mandelson was the biggest loss to diarists. I first picked up hints that he might be in danger late one evening a few years ago when word reached me that he was a home owner. "He is eyeing up a really big number in Notting Hill," I was told over a few lemonades at a refuelling station. "It belongs to a friend of mine. He is a beast, keeps beating the price down." This squared with my intelligence.

Wendy had confided in an acquaintance that he had been seduced by those long porotics. "But I don't want to read about this in a Diary," he was warned. Even then I was puzzled that the wannabe minister could afford to hang out in 192. But the news was enough to inspire further investigation by the

knight of Diary Towers into Wendy's world. When they returned with news that Mandelson was going to look for trade in Brazil, my teeny Edwina was quite devastated.

Downer of the year at Diary Towers was my tale that Germaine Greer planned a world-wide "dating dossier" to fight the male enemy. More satisfying were disclosures that Harry Enfield, whose "loads of money" sketch ridiculed plutocratic types, was a client of the Queen's stockbroker, Cazeno; that Mark Knopfler, an old rocker, had found his natural home in the Garrick; and that the wonderful Lathario Robin Cook was to be the hero of a Dame Barbara Cartland novel.

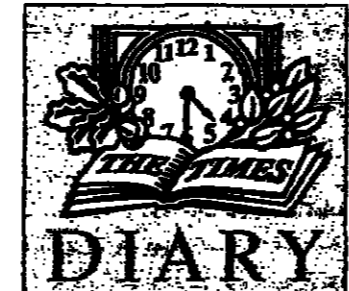
Diary scoop of the year was my disclosure that the Duke of Edinburgh, never one for yellow sorts, was cross with the wife for giving a going to the Jap Emperor. Sadly this amusing item caused a bit of a stink. It only slightly shades my

disclosure that Ginger Spice was to become a UN ambassador.

Bash of the year was the canine garden party thrown by the Czech Ambassador. The munts behaved rather better than the normal party crowd, except for a mean terrier that looked like Jack Straw.

Walkout of the year award goes to Stella McCartney, who as I disclosed felt "used" by Tony Blair and his Committee of Cool. Frankly, she should have resigned earlier when I discovered that the PM had joined the Slade Fan Club.

■ ADAM, the Diary Towers pastry chef, has spent the year filing himself with knowledge gained from improving books, particularly the *Yellow Pages*. Flicking through in search of a bumper pack of rissoles, he came across the extraordinary entry: "Geoffrey Robinson MP, political consultant." When we published his discovery, it prompted calls for Robo to resign and blew my own sophisticated



fiscal off-shore arrangements. He was not the Diary's only ministerial scalp. David Clark (remember him?) blamed his Cabinet sacking on notices here about his penchant for abroad. I feel a shade sorry that it was here that Ron Davies, an unlikely exotic, announced his sadly ruined plan to become King of Wales.

Soaring social superstar was "Lady" Arabella Ruissel-Sackett, who enjoyed lunches with royal sorts as social editor of *OK!* magazine. My butler, Owen, a stickler on such matters, searched in vain for her in his favourite bedtime reading, *Debutants*. When Owen finally tracked the extraordinary woman down, she was sat regally in her front room in Croydon, watching the racing on the television and declaring the whole sad episode to be a sorry mistake.

Chancellor of the year was Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd, who won the Chelsea Flower Show with an entry which Owen insists resembles one he admired once on a camping holiday in Belgium. My foray into "showbiz" disclosed Clive Anderson returning an £11,000 cheque for an after-dinner speech which lasted 12 minutes.

My campaign to have the splendid Arm Widdowcombe recognised as a beauty ended in dark shadow immediately. After discovering a snap of the delightful MP in varsity days, I dwelt on her physical charms. This caused offence and so I apologised. Relations have now been restored and I trust she will be sponsoring the splendid Alan Clark when he converts to Roman Catholicism.

■ I AM less confident about that unrecognised genius, Rosie Boycott, of *The Express*, whom I wanted to name Editor of the *Millennium*. Her grasp of journalism deserted her when I broke the happy news of her nuptials; she grumbled that this had not been announced yet. Odd, coming from an editor who dispatched a reporter to accuse a chap in front of his wife of keeping a mistress.

Wild prediction of the year goes to Michael Portillo, who suggested that Fionn would give William Hague an heir in '98. He did not



Picture of the year, Rupert Everett dressed as a fairy (above) at Ampleforth, which explains his own development: a distinctly gay year. My own little awkwardness? A note of sympathy on this page to the Queen for the loss of her beloved corgis, Whisky and Soda. When I ran into HM, she took me aside - with amazing cheer under the circumstances - to point out that the pups had progressed to the other side 15 years earlier.

JASPER GERARD



BACK FROM THE BRINK

Athens has rightly reduced tension over Cyprus

The decision by the Greek and Cypriot governments not to deploy Russian missiles on Cyprus is the first good news from the eastern Mediterranean for many months. The warm welcome by all the Western allies is an indication of the very real worry that the imminent deployment of 5300 missiles on the Greek side of the divided island would have swiftly triggered the threatened Turkish airstrikes. These in turn could have led to all-out war between Greece and Turkey. Tensions remain high and the decision has provoked widespread anger in Athens and Nicosia. But at least a dangerous obstacle to the resumption of intercommunal negotiations on the island has been removed.

Both President Clerides and Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, have shown maturity and political courage. The missile deployment was the result of a rash escalation of rhetoric by the Greek Cypriots, who signed the \$420 million deal two years ago. The missiles were to be deployed this month, but Nicosia has come under enormous international pressure, including an urgent appeal by the United Nations Security Council, not to take this step. But having taken a decision seen by his countrymen as an overdue demonstration of resolution, Mr Clerides will pay a big domestic price for his change of heart. The Socialist junior partner in the coalition has threatened to walk out; newspapers have heaped scorn on the President; and his own gamble of using the missiles as a lever to force the pace of intercommunal talks has been exposed as bluff.

Similar nationalist posturing is now swirling around Mr Simitis in Athens. The stridency of Papandreou loyalists, dismayed by the more moderate tones of the old man's successor, has now focused its fury on the Prime Minister. Both the conservative Opposition and the left condemned what they called a humiliating

climb-down. They said that the vaunted Greek defence pact with Cyprus had left the island defenceless and Greece standing alone against Turkey.

The redirection to Crete raises difficult questions. What purpose is served by one Nato member deploying missiles against another? How will this help the settlement of bilateral disputes over the sovereignty of Aegean outcrops, Turkish overflights and competing claims to seabed resources? What are the obligations Greece has assumed in defending the Greek Cypriots against perceived threats from the north?

Turkey has already described deployment in Crete as unacceptable. Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister, portrayed the decision not to station the missiles on Cyprus as a victory for Turkey's tough stance and gave no indication of any matching concessions. If Ankara maintains this triumphalist posture, it would be sabotaging a rare opportunity to halt the downward spiral in the region. Mr Simitis is the best Prime Minister Greece has had for years. Yet apart from George Papandreou, the able Deputy Foreign Minister, he is surrounded by few moderates. He and Mr Clerides, 80 in April, need to show that their decision has brought an overall solution closer.

Rauf Denktaş, the wily Turkish Cypriot leader, has no intention of supplying that evidence. He is the real beneficiary from the missile fiasco, for it enabled him to block talks with the south, portray the Cyprus question in terms of a missile threat and meanwhile quietly increase the price of a political settlement. Turkey is at present without a functioning government. But all politicians should realise that the ball is now in Ankara's court. A statesman-like response would go a long way towards repairing the rift with the European Union. It might even bring hope of lasting stability to the region.

PURPLE HAZE

Jimi Hendrix set the tone for a decade

The brief but blazing rock career of Jimi Hendrix both led and in some ways epitomised the revolutionary spirit of the Sixties. Unknown until 1966, Hendrix spent the next four years dominating the musical scene until he died of a barbiturate overdose in 1970. Rarely can a musician have had so much influence in so short a spell.

Hendrix was a musician's musician, so accomplished that Eric Clapton despaired of ever matching him. Despite Hendrix's youth — he was only 27 when he died — he was a hero to all the great guitarists of the time. Not only did he play the instrument behind his back; he coaxed sounds from it that had never been heard before. Through the use of controlled feedback, the guitar became no longer the melodic pacesetter of a pop band, but a splintering, wailing, distorted voice of rock expressionism.

Within a year of bursting on to the music scene, Hendrix was voted the world's top musician by readers of *Melody Maker*. With his wild hair, flamboyant dress and subversive music, he fashioned a character which now seems normal: the rebellious pop star. The newspapers said that he made Mick Jagger look like Edward Heath. For, although the Beatles and the Rolling Stones were formed in the early 1960s, they kept their short hair and suits until halfway through the decade, when they adopted a more alternative image. If the Beatles and the Stones helped to create a new generation of teenagers rather than young adults, it was Jimi Hendrix who turned the teenagers into rebels.

For Hendrix was also a trailblazer in the field of political protest. Until the late 1960s, pop icons were not overtly political.



But Hendrix (who had served as a paratrooper) played a version of *The Star-Spangled Banner* that was the musical equivalent of burning the flag. To ram home the anti-war message, he managed to incorporate into the song the sound of bombs dropping, while distorting the melody until it was barely recognisable. The youth of America and Britain were electrified, parents and politicians were outraged.

In racial terms, too, Hendrix was a pioneer. Although black musicians had flourished in jazz, blues and Motown, he was the first mainstream black rock musician to appeal to a white audience. Indeed he complained in 1968 that "black kids think the music is white, which it isn't. I'd like for them to see that there is no black rock or white rock." Now that rock music is so racially diverse, such a sentiment sounds unnecessary. But Hendrix was again ahead of his time.

He was also one of the first real practitioners of the "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll" combo of the Sixties. Hendrix was surrounded by groupies, whom he called "electric ladies", immortalised on his "Electric Ladyland" album. And he delighted in drug-taking, particularly hallucinogens such as LSD. The mind-expanding drugs led to mind-blowing music.

But drugs eventually led too to his death. Hendrix took nine sleeping pills that night in September 1970 and died by choking on his own vomit. The real circumstances of his death remain a mystery: the coroner recorded an open verdict. But the verdict on his life is clear. Hendrix was a man of his time, a brilliant and innovative subversive who summed up the spirit of that intense but ultimately doomed decade.

NINETIES MAN

An overdue honour for an understated hobby

The New Year's Honours list is, with the utmost respect for those involved, on occasion a less than inspirational exercise for the outsider. The headlines are dominated by entertainers and sportsmen who have achieved so much already that it is difficult to believe that one more medal will make that much difference. The virtue of this event lies in the unexpected — those plucking from previous obscurity of those who personify aspects of national life that receive less than their fair share of publicity. Every year has its hero on this score, today the nation rightly recognises Ralph Lee MBE — the spiritual founding father of British caravaning.

Mr Lee is no normal exponent of this noble art but a cross between Christopher Columbus, Barbara Cartland and Neil Armstrong. Over six decades and more he and his late wife travelled half a million miles with his caravan in tow, entered the Arctic Circle, penetrated the Iron Curtain and traversed the Channel on some 74 occasions. He may have started as an enthusiastic amateur but acquired an expertise over time that enabled him to advise manufacturers on how to construct the most useful vehicle. Although 95 years old now, Mr Lee still makes regular if more limited excursions in his caravan.

In this age of supersonic transport and

exotic holiday locations it has become fashionable to pour scorn on those who would depart for pastures new in motor car with caravan in tow. That is, though, to allow contemporary arrogance to eclipse a sense of history. When Mr Lee started on his travels, air transport was the preserve of the rich and famous and foreign hotels a distinctly risky enterprise. For those of modest means the choice was to stay within the safety of their immediate surrounds or take to the road with their own transport. Mr Lee and his contemporaries rightly chose the path of adventure.

Their legacy is a wider British sense of adventure which the award of this MBE endorses. The consequence has been a vast network of personal contacts in countries across the continent that are the underlying essence of any nation's overseas relations. If an Englishman's home is his castle, then his caravan is a portable palace. This is, according to one authoritative estimate, the most popular British pastime after walking, gardening and fishing. Millions of wheels will roll next year — at home and abroad — as in previous decades. Mr Lee and his compatriots ensured that movement was not simply the preserve of those with money. He and those who followed in his tracks have been properly if perhaps belatedly honoured.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Donors' consent to organ transplants

From Dr David J. Hill, FRCA

Sir, Before embarking on a scheme of "presumed consent" (reports, December 28) the ethical committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) should consider why, after more than twenty years of organ harvesting and campaigns to persuade the public, there are still so many who refuse to agree to have their organs removed.

I believe that the profession has been deceptive in the information given and that the public are uneasily aware of this. The more accurate term "brain-stem death" has only recently replaced the term "brain death", although it has long ago been demonstrated that patients fulfilling the criteria for brain-stem death may retain activity in the higher parts of the brain.

The motivation for ignoring this is to enable viable organs to be removed for transplantation. Michael Wilkes, chairman of the BMA ethics committee, admits as much when he says that a shift in medical opinion in favour of the interests of those awaiting transplantation appeared to have prompted these new suggestions, which are contrary to the Hippocratic principle of treatment for a patient's own benefit.

There is no requirement for an explanation to be given before donor card consent is signed. If a potential donor has a different concept of death from that which is to be used if his/her organs are required, that consent cannot be considered valid.

Anaesthetists have different approaches during surgery for removal of organs. Some give anaesthesia as for any other operation but others withhold it to avoid the paradox of anaesthetising a patient who has been declared brain-stem dead.

Potential donors should surely be given the option of anaesthesia and certainly it should be made an absolute requirement for those to be operated on with only presumed consent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HILL,
The Old Post Office,
Elstisley, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire PE19 4TG,
December 28.

From Mrs Jane Cooper, JP

Sir, I gave my sister a kidney in late November. During my stay in hospital my consultant told me about the dreadful waste of potential organs, not only kidneys, for transplantation. He said that 70 per cent of those able to choose would be willing to donate organs on death but only 20 per cent were on a donor register.

As your reports showed, one of the main problems is identifying potential donors' consent. I have set up an organisation, Dome 2001, to seek to persuade the Home Secretary to include with the electoral registration form sent to every household annually an organ donor form, completion of which should be entirely voluntary.

Those additional consents could easily be included in the National Donor Register. That would help transplant surgeons to identify more potential organs and relieve the relatives of a deceased potential donor of much heartsearching.

Yours faithfully,
JANE COOPER,
219 Wembley Park Road,
Southfields, SW18 5RH,
December 28.

Services rendered

From Brigadier Alan Ross (ret'd)

Sir, There is a possible solution to the dilemma of whether doctors should be recompensed if they help with medical crises on aircraft (letter, December 15) — have an understanding that airlines offer a doctor who helps them a first-class return trip to anywhere on their network at any time during the following year with the medical world. I just want a little reassurance that a doctor would come to my aid if needed.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ROSS,
Postbox 224, Coin 29100, Spain,
December 21.

Support for the Dome

From Mr P. K. Collymore

Sir, It seems to me that whenever the Dome is mentioned in your paper, it is accompanied by snide and whingeing remarks. In Media Times on December 18, for example, the Editor of Campaign referred to "... that silly Dome built on the poisoned land in Greenwich that no one will want to go to ..."

May I suggest a new year's resolution: to stop whingeing about the Dome and perhaps support the project in which so many citizens are involved above and below ground.

Yours faithfully,
P. K. COLLYMORE,
Barrington Cottage,
Byworth, West Sussex GU28 0HJ,
December 20.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Traffic plans for heart of Oxford

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Sir, I was disappointed to read a rather inaccurate account of my visit to Oxford earlier this year to look at the city's traffic measures (letter, December 18). During that visit I was impressed by the progress being made in facilitating access to the town centre by means other than the car, and by the many measures which could be seen to encourage cycling, walking and greater use of public transport.

The Government will be providing the local authorities with £2 million in 1999/00 to continue developing the Oxford Transport Package — consisting of 90 traffic-improvement projects, from park and ride to bus-priority schemes — so, quite clearly, we do support the aims and objectives of that package. However, I have not made any statement of support for measures which were subject to public inquiry, indeed I have been very careful not to.

The environmental and traffic impact of road-management measures within Oxford are rightly for the people of Oxford and Oxfordshire to determine, and not for the Secretary of State to decide.

Yours faithfully,
GLENDA JACKSON,
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions,
Eland House,
Bressenden Place, SW1E 5DU,
December 24.

From Mrs Pat Dendy

Sir, In their letter of December 18 the Provost of The Queen's College and the President of Magdalen College describe the unsatisfactory nature of the traffic inquiry held earlier this year on the major traffic alterations proposed for central Oxford and the damaging effect which these proposals will have on the city.

The remit of this inquiry was restricted to the city centre — an area of less than one square mile. Cases presented by residents — both individuals and local associations — concerning the congestion and pollution that traffic displaced from the city centre would cause in residential areas were deemed outside its remit.

Party particulars

From Professor Ken Coates, MEP for Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield (Independent Labour)

Sir, There has rightly been some controversy about the Registration of Political Parties Act which has recently become law, together with an ominously entitled statutory instrument, The Registration of Political Parties (Prohibited Words and Expressions) Order 1998. The latter outlaws the use of the word "Independent" in conjunction with the name of any other registered political party.

Registration under the Act takes place in two stages. The first stage covers parties which already have "at least one Member of the House of Commons ... at the time ... the application is made".

The new Act will cover elections to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly in which, of course, there are not sitting members. But it will also cover elections to the European Parliament and to local councils

Council powers

From the Leader of Hampshire County Council

Sir, The Reverend Roger Knight (letter, December 15) wants to see all spending power over local services such as education, social services and planning handed over to Whitehall. He would scrap centuries of local democracy and remove the right of voters to be consulted on local issues. He would be taking us in exactly the wrong direction.

Local government should be given more freedom to raise local taxation, not less. This is the way to make councils more accountable and to persuade more people to vote in local elections. People will only use their vote if they

Golden years

From Mr Martin Hasseck

Sir, Miss Jean Leley (letter, December 28) objects to the term "old-age pensioner" as "outdated and demeaning". Why?

I am old aged and a pensioner. To my way of thinking this description is correct and bang on.

However, as one into his 78th year, perhaps I am letting the side down. This, combined with the fact that my wife dissociates herself from these views, might well make the writing of this letter ill-judged.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4 1LL,
December 28.

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, About three years ago an entertaining debate was initiated in your columns by a reader who sought a more acceptable term than OAP or senior citizen to describe someone of bus-pass age.

'Myth' of drug tests on animals

From Dr Vernon Coleman

Sir, It is a myth that animal experiments are essential for the development of drugs (letters, December 11, 14, 22). Indeed, all the scientific evidence shows quite clearly that animals are so different to human beings — in both physiological and anatomical terms — that experiments performed on them are worthless and misleading.

Most of these experiments are done for or on behalf of drug companies. They know that if a test shows that a drug doesn't cause problems when given to animals they can use the results to help convince the authorities that the drug is safe. On the other hand, when a drug does cause a problem when given to animals the results can be ignored on the grounds that animals are different to human beings. I can name over 50 prescription drugs in Britain which are sold as safe for human beings but which are known to cause cancer or other serious problems when given to animals.

It seems fair to assume that the Government has reneged on its pre-election promise of a royal commission on animal experiments because it is aware that such a commission would be bound to find that these experiments are of no value whatsoever. This would gravely displease the multinational pharmaceutical companies, which would leave Britain in large numbers — taking their taxable profits with them.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON COLEMAN,
Publishing House,
Trinity Place,
Barnstaple, Devon EX22 9HL,
December 22.

From Dr Peter D. Rosedale

Sir, A substantial number of domesticated animals and most laboratory animals are bred for a purpose. If these various purposes cease or are abolished, as the anti-hunting and anti-viscivation lobbies suggest, the number of individual animals bred will diminish correspondingly.

Should we deny these the gift of life, any more than we deny it to the unborn infant? Is it better to have lived and suffered than never to have lived at all?

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. ROSSDALE,
Rosedale & Partners
(Veterinary surgeons),
Beaufort Cottage Laboratories,
High Street, Newmarket,
Suffolk CB8 8US,
December 22.

Different for some

From Dr W. S. Affleck

Sir, So Lieutenant (Temporary) Edmund Flecher Ross-Moag received a quite lengthy letter from the Secretary to the War Office on the occasion of his demobilisation in April 1919 (article, "My vintage Christmas", December 21).

Later in 1919, when my father (a substantive lieutenant) was similarly made, he appears to have had to make do with an Army Form 2.3, "Protection Certificate (Officer)", which told him he would be (my italics) "Disembodied ... with effect from 25 October, 1919, unless he hears to the contrary from the War Office, on and after which date he will not be entitled to draw pay. He will be allowed to wear uniform for one week from the above date ..."

It is, I wonder, too late to sue for discriminatory treatment?

Yours sincerely,
W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill, Walsley,
Nailsworth, Stroud GL6 0AS,
100443.2430@compuserve.com

Ex-celebs

From Mr Peter Harrand

Sir, As we all look forward to the New Year's Honours List, can I propose a New Year's Deletion of Celebrity Status List?

Every year hundreds of "new" people — new ministers, television weather girls, authors, murderers — become "famous" and we are deemed to be interested in their activities, opinions and preferred choice of pizza. Is there not room for an annual list to tell us who ceased to be famous and whom we can in future forget?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HARRAND,
8 Overdale Avenue, Leeds LS17 8TE,
December 21.

Outlook unsettled

From Mr Geoffrey N. Dence

Sir, Yesterday evening I watched an ITV news bulletin which reported that the weather had caused many thousands of unfortunate people in the North to be deprived of electricity. Immediately following this bulletin was the weather forecast sponsored by PowerGen with the slogan "Power whatever the weather".

Does this constitute a prima facie case of misleading advertising?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. DENCE,
The Pirs, East Grimstead,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3RZ,
December 28.

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SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess Royal will undertake an official visit to Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand during March.

Birthdays today

Mr Douglas Anthony, CH, former Australian Deputy Prime Minister, 69; Mr Clavin Ben, publisher, 93; Sir George Blunden, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 76; Sir Michael Bonalack, golfer, 64; Sir George Christie, chairman, Glynedebourne Productions, 64; Mr Stephen Cleobury, organist, 50; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Dunn, 80; Roy Greenleade, journalist, broadcaster and author, 52; Sir Anthony Hopkins, actor, 61; Miss Tess Jaray, artist, 61; Mr Ben Kingsley, actor, 55; Mr Sandy Marshall, former chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 74; Dr Valerie Park, former President, New Hall, Cambridge, 72; Mr Jean-Pierre Rives, former rugby player, 46; Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman, Williams, 52; Sir John Salny, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 64; Mr Alec Stenrod, MP, Leader, Scottish National Party, 44; Sir David Walker, former chairman, Securities and Investments Board, 59.

UVCC

Would all Casters, Pinks or Fry of the UK Valley Casting Club, who are still swimming, please forward their present list to The Secretary, A. Secret, Trenow House, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1RF. Tel/Fax 01574 730225. The President has risen to the Waicher's crest, to race again on Sunday, July 18, 1999, at Glasnik.

Latest wills

Marjorie Robinson of London NW3, left estate valued at £23,021,662 net. She left £100 to the Friends of Queen Mary, £400 to St George's, Hanover Square, £500 to a Hampstead Old Peoples Housing Association, £1,000 to the Sir Ralph Edgar Perring, Chairman of Perring Furnishings, 1948-81, of London SW19, 1998, left estate valued at £77,722 net. He left £5,000 to the Wonderful Company of Rurniture Makers. William Harrison Harrison-Cripps, of Dornington, Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,435,909 net. Nicholas Saunders, of London WC2, left estate valued at £2,043,451 net. Herbert Hugh Whitley, of Ashburnham, Devon, left estate valued at £2,851,544 net.



Eric Miller, senior conservator at the British Museum, carrying out work on the Rosetta Stone ready for the bicentenary year of its discovery north of Alexandria. The stone, dating from 197BC, is inscribed with a decree in honour of Ptolemy V in three scripts, including Greek and hieroglyphics. From this the French Egyptologist Jean Francois Champollion was able to decipher the hieroglyphic script and language in 1824. The stone will remain on show at the museum while conservation work on it continues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jacques Cartier, navigator, St Malo, Brittany, 1491; Charles Edward Stuart, (Bonnie Prince Charlie), Rome, 1720; Charles Cornwallis, 1st Marquess Cornwallis, soldier and statesman, London, 1738; Giovanni Pascoli, poet, San Giovanni di Romagna, 1858; Henri Matisse, painter, Le Cateau, France, 1869; George C. Marshall, general, statesman, formulated Marshall Aid, Nobel Peace laureate 1953, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 1880; DEATHS: Giovanni Borelli, mathematician and astronomer, Rome, 1679; Sir Dudley North, financier, London, 1691; John Flamsteed, 18th-century astronomer, London, 1743; Gustave Courbet, painter, La Tour de Peilz, Switzerland, 1817; Miguel de Unamuno, philosopher and poet, Salamanca, Spain, 1936; Sir Frank Benson, actor-manager, London, 1939; Sir Malcolm Campbell, land and water speed record-breaker, Reigate, Surrey, 1948. The window tax was imposed, 1695. Ellis Island, New York, was opened as an immigration depot, 1890. The chimes of Big Ben were broadcast by the BBC for the first time, 1935. The Farthing ceased to be legal tender in Britain at midnight, 1960.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. Brooks and Miss E.L. Bellhouse. Professor E.L. and Mrs E.L. Bellhouse of Lipo, Oxfordshire, announce the engagement of their fifth daughter, Emily, to Marcus, elder son of Mr J.D. and Mrs E.J. Brooks, of Laleham, Middlesex. Dr M. Browning and Miss L.E. Peters. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Dr John and Dr June Browning, of Broughton, Lanarkshire, and Nicola Sumnane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Curry, of Emsworth, Hampshire. Mr M.E. Dorey and Miss W.S. Bracegirdle. The engagement is announced between Martyn, younger son of Sir Gordon Dorey and the late Lady Dorey, of Guernsey, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Bracegirdle, of Guernsey and formerly of Chigwell, Essex. Mr T.J. Dowling and Miss L.J. Kassia. The engagement is announced, from Hong Kong, between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Jens Dowling, of Sydney, Australia, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Rustin, of Kilmington, Hampshire. Mr R.H. Fiedon and Miss L.E. Peters. The engagement is announced between Richard Hague, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Flockton, of Collingham, West Yorkshire, and Lucinda Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Peters, of Bishop Monkton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, also of London. Mr J.R. Foy and Miss E.A. Osborne. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mr Patrick Foy and Mrs Carmel Foy, of Malham Road, Walsfield, West Yorkshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr Derek Osborne and Mrs Ann Osborne, of Bromley, Kent. The marriage will take place on August 26, 2000. Dr R.J.M. Franklin and Dr B.J. Skelly. The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Sir Michael and Lady Franklin, of Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Barbara, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Skelly, of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Mr E.U. Hales and Miss Z.E. Radbourne. The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr James Hales and the late Mrs Sally Hales, of Claxby Hall, Lincolnshire, and Zoe, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Radbourne, of North Farm, Lambourn, Berkshire. Mr J.R. Lavelle and Miss K.E. Hill. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Lavelle, of Windsor Forest, Berkshire, and Karen-Emma, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Hill, of Wornley, Surrey. Mr J.K. Little and Miss V.G.K. Thorpe. The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.K. Little, of Godalming, and Katrina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.K. Thorpe, of Farnham. Mr L.G. Macfarlane and Miss R.G. Eborworth. The engagement is announced between Iain George, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.R. Macfarlane, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, and Rebecca Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Eborworth, of East Molesey, Surrey. Misses E.E. Mairdin, R.A. and Miss S.J. Payne. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Mairdin, of Great Barford, Bedfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs Leslie Payne, of Blackheath, London. Mr R. Rainshaw and Miss S. Fernando. The engagement is announced between Kevin Rainshaw and Sharmaine Fernando.

Church news

The Rev Leonard Doolan, Dean, Rye, Halesworth, W. Lindsey, Chesham, Wisnet St Peter, Blyford, Speshall, Wisnet and Walpole (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to be Team Rector, Iffley (Chichester). The Rev Canon Edridge, Curate, Harlington (Chichester) to be Team Rector, Moulscumb (same diocese). The Rev John Boucher, Vicar, Chadwell Heath St Chad, Vicar, Rural Dean of Barking and Dagenham, and Chaplain, Chadwell Heath Hospital (Chelmsford) to be also Non-Residential Canon, Chelmsford Cathedral. The Rev Canon Goring, Vicar, permission to officiate (Chichester) to be NSM Curate, Mayfield (St Albans diocese). The Rev Neil Green, Curate, Muswell Hill (London) to be Vicar, Eastbourne All Souls (Chichester). The Rev Michael Gudgeon, with permission to officiate (Chichester) to be Rector, Church of the Holy Trinity, St Andrew (same diocese).

PERSONAL

BIRTHS

BLOWER - On December 28th at home, a daughter, Jacqui (nee Knox) and Charles, a daughter. BROWN - On 12th December, to Karen and John, a daughter, Elizabeth Alice Mary, a sister for John. BUCKLAND - On 14th December at Kingston Hospital to Susan and Terry, a son, Levi, a brother for Dan and Amber. COOPER - On December 29th, to Katie and Simon, a daughter. EL-SALAWAN - On 12th December in Cambridge to Adrienne (nee O'Hara) and Talism, a beautiful daughter. Tamsin. MELUSHI - On December 23rd at home, to Joanna (nee Marchbanks) and Simon, a daughter. Mia Rosie. A wonderful sister for Tom, Eliza and Max. MOWAL - On 23rd December 1998 to Annabel (nee Topley) and Benjamin, a daughter. Alice Mary Tullberg, a sister for Sophie. NELSON - On December 18th to Catherine (nee Budger) and Stephen, a daughter, Olivia Frances Mia, a sister for William. PEERS-TEJERO - On December 28th at The Portland Hospital to James and Jeff, the best Xmas present ever, a daughter, Clara. FENWICK - On 28th November to Nicola (nee Dickins) and James, a daughter Megan Alexander, a beautiful sister for Harry. SIEGHEED - On December 26th at The Portland Hospital to Karen Farner and John Sieghied III, a son, Zachary Clark. THORSTRUP - On December 24th at The Portland Hospital to Francesca (nee Bryan) and Steven, a son, James Steven. WOOD - On 27th December 1998 at GMC Nottingham to Carolyn (nee Turpin) and Tim, a precious son, first born, Joshua James.

DEATHS

ARBUHNOTT - Edmund, Canon of the Southwark Diocese, on 28th December at St. Mary's Westbourne, Worthing. RIP. A very special uncle and remarkable priest. The relic of the body and a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Church of St. Mary's of the Angels, Richmond Road, Worthing at 5.00pm on Monday 4th January and the Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady & St. Peter, Victoria Drive, Worthington SW19 at 10.30am on Tuesday 5th January followed by burial at Putney Vale. Donations if desired to Arnold & Brighton Lourdes Sick Fund, c/o McNamara Ryan, 3 Monument Green, Worthing, Surrey KT13 9QR (01922 84641).

DEATHS

BARNSTON - Margaret (nee Green), beloved wife of Robert, died peacefully at home on 28th December 1998, aged 88. Deeply loved mother and grandmother. Burial at St. Mary's Church, 1st January 1999 at 1.45pm on Wednesday 9th January 1999 at St. Ignace's Church, 1st January 1999 at 11.30am. Donations if desired to the Treasurer, Friends of Gosmore Nursing Home, Gosmore Nursing and Care Centre, Gosmore, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 7QJ. COTTAM - On Friday 25th December at Brampton Cottage Hospital, John Enoch Fisher Cotton F.R.C.S. Much loved husband of the late Dorothy, formerly of the Royal Engineers and Ministry of Agriculture. Funeral Service and interment in St. Michael's Parish Church, Millthorpe, Cambridge, on Thursday 7th January at 12.30pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o J.E. Robinson, Kenyon 0171 897 0757. JOHNSON - Derek Cyril, died peacefully at home on 28th December 1998, aged 90, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his children Jonathan and Queen's Star, and numerous friends and colleagues in the law and in business. Memorial Service to be announced later. KAYE - Patrick on 22nd December, aged 83 years. A loving husband and father. A funeral service will be held at 11.00am on Monday 4th January at St. Ignace's Church, 1st January 1999 at 11.30am. Donations if desired to the Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o J.E. Robinson, Kenyon 0171 897 0757. KEMPSON - Dr Solomon, died peacefully at home on 28th December 1998, aged 90, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his children Jonathan and Queen's Star, and numerous friends and colleagues in the law and in business. Memorial Service to be announced later. KAYE - Patrick on 22nd December, aged 83 years. A loving husband and father. A funeral service will be held at 11.00am on Monday 4th January at St. Ignace's Church, 1st January 1999 at 11.30am. Donations if desired to the Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o J.E. 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OBITUARIES

LADY GLENDEVON

Lady Glendevon, daughter of Somerset Maugham, died in Scotland on December 27 aged 83. She was born in Rome on September 1, 1915.

Somerset Maugham described his marriage as the most serious mistake of his life — "I was a quarter normal and three-quarters queer, but I tried to persuade myself that it was the other way round" — and his daughter was to spend years of her life struggling to escape the bitterness it caused.

The daughter of Maugham and Sylvia Wellcome (née Barnard), Elizabeth Mary Maugham was born two years before their unsatisfactory marriage even began, and indeed while her mother was still married to the chemist Henry Wellcome (later Sir Henry).

As a child, she lived with her mother and saw little of her father, who was often away travelling in the South Pacific and who was anyway involved in a homosexual affair with his "secretary", Gerald Haxton, whom he had met while serving with an ambulance unit in France in the First World War.

Her mother, not unreasonably disapproved of the alcoholic Haxton, whom she called "a liar, a forger and a cheat". She separated from Maugham in 1925, divorcing in 1929. The experience greatly pained her, and many years later, just before her death, she met Maugham at the Dorchester and told him that she still loved him, only to be met with the rebuff "You don't love me — you can't — because you've never known me."

But her daughter, always known as Liza (after her father's novel *Liza of Lam-*

both) treasured the little time she spent with him. "Whenever he was home he used to read to me," she recalled. "Kipling and his other favourites, before I went to sleep. And after the divorce, when he was living in France, whenever he came to London he took me to lunch at Claridge's or to the theatre."

She was educated by a series of governesses and at the Miss Spalding School in Queensgate, and grew up in Chelsea as part of the beau monde of artists, writers and the aristocracy. Her tastes were not parsimonious, somewhat to the dismay of her father. Asked once what she would do if she had 12 guineas and the cook left handless, she said, "That's easy. I'd take them all out to dinner."

On the circuit of parties in the 1930s, she got to know Evelyn Waugh, Augustus John and Beverley Nichols. Cecil Beaton took her photograph, and Noel Coward composed songs at the piano while staying in her mother's house. Meanwhile, her mother had made a name for herself as an interior designer, specialising in whitewash.

At 21 Liza Maugham married Vincent Paravichin, the son of the Swiss Ambassador, but then while he served in Italy during the war, she was mostly in America, working for the British Library of Information and spending time with Errol Flynn. The long separation meant that soon after the war they were divorced, though they remained on good terms.

In 1948 she married Lord John Hope, a duff and long-serving Conservative MP. He had recently been involved in persuading the



Liza Maugham being given away at her first wedding by her father, Somerset Maugham, and photographed beforehand by Cecil Beaton

Tories to accept Indian independence, and so was surprised to be invited to be Churchill's Parliamentary Private Secretary. He declined, but went on to be Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Churchill's 1954 Government. In October 1959 Harold Macmillan made him Minister of Works, in which post he supervised the arrangements for the wedding in 1960 of Princess Margaret, who was to remain a friend. Then, in July 1962 his political career was cut off in the "Night of the Long Knives", leaving him to return to his earlier business career. He was given a hereditary peerage in 1964, becoming Lord Glendevon and he and his wife lived harmoniously on the Wilton estate, and later in Guernsey.



legacy of her father's marriage. In old age, Maugham suffered from Alzheimer's disease, and his relationship with his daughter collapsed. In 1955 her mother died, to which Maugham's only reaction was to crow "No more alimony, no more alimony." He then proceeded to denounce her in his memoirs, *Looking Back*. His nephew, the writer Robin Maugham, recalled that "he had this ghastly fear

that he had sold his soul to the devil and the devil was coming to get him". But by this time Maugham had also mortgaged himself elsewhere. Gerald Haxton had been replaced by another companion, Alan Searle, who had met Maugham when he was just 23, and who stayed with him for 36 years. Searle enjoyed sharing Maugham's life of reclusive luxury, and was not unaware of the potential rewards of his

association with a writer who was said to make £10 a minute from royalties. Around 1960, Maugham asked Lady John to sign away her rights to his royalties, which she did, on the understanding that she would inherit some of his works of art. In 1962, however, he sold 35 of his paintings at Sotheby's, including Picasso's *Death of a Harlequin* and Matisse's *The Yellow Chair*. Even then these

were valuable properties, and the sale raised £523,880. Since nine of the pictures had been assigned to her in a deed, Lady John felt obliged to sue for the proceeds, and she was awarded £231,750.

Amid intense press interest, Maugham now publicly disowned her, claiming that she was Henry Wellcome's daughter after all, and attempted to adopt Searle as his middle aged "son". This grotesque act was nullified by a court in Nice, but Maugham persisted in trying to recover some gifts to Lady John on the grounds of her "ingratitude".

Lady John wished for a reconciliation with her increasingly senile, deaf and blind father, but with Searle standing between them, none took place. As Maugham turned 90, Lady John settled for £100,000, leaving Searle to inherit the contents of Maugham's home, Villa la Maur-esque, at Cap Ferrat, a sum of £50,000, and his manuscripts and copyrights. On Maugham's death in 1965 the new Lady Glendevon inherited the villa itself, valued at £350,000, but it was sold for development.

When Searle in turn died in 1985, Lady Glendevon believed that the Maugham copyrights should have devolved to her, but they passed instead to the Royal Literary Fund. She could not bring herself to speak Searle's name.

Her husband died in 1996, and she then moved from Guernsey back to London, to live near her children, buying a flat in Eaton Square.

She is survived by the son and daughter of her first marriage and by the two sons of her second marriage, the elder of whom is the present Lord Glendevon.

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BOB HAGGART

Bob Haggart, jazz double bassist, bandleader and composer, died in Florida on December 2 aged 84. He was born in New York on March 13, 1914.

ONE OF the most extraordinary bass solos in jazz history is Bob Haggart's *Big Noise from Winnetka*, in which he accompanies his own whistling to the pounding toms of Ray Bauduc, before Bauduc starts to beat out rhythms on the strings of the bass itself. It originated as an impromptu time-filler during a 1938 Bob Crosby season at the Blackhawk in Chicago, and the resulting disc ended up being one of the Crosby band's greatest hits.

This instrumental oddity alone might have secured Haggart a place in music history, but he was also the composer of such standards as *South Rampart Street Parade*, one of the most prolific and tasteful of jazz arrangers, and the leader of numerous bands including the World's Greatest Jazz Band, which he led with trumpeter Yank Lawson from 1968 to 1978.

Haggart was also one of the most dependable and swinging bassists in jazz, from his debut in 1931 until a matter of days before his death.

Robert Sherwood Haggart grew up on Long Island, and early on showed musical promise as a guitarist and trumpeter. His first instrument had been a banjo, and he subsequently took guitar and banjo lessons from the virtuoso George Van Eps (who predeceased him by four days).

This gave the young Haggart a grounding in harmony, which he applied in earnest to rewriting song arrangements for the band at Salisbury School, Connecticut, in which he also played trumpet. He did not take up bass until he was 17 and attending Great Neck High School, but thereafter, even though he still played guitar around his neighbourhood, bass was his preferred instrument. By that time, he had discovered jazz



through records of Bix Beiderbecke and Louis Armstrong, and for the rest of his life he combined this passion, with his twin careers of bassist and arranger.

He turned down offers of work from Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman, but in 1935 he joined the co-operative band led by Bob Crosby. This made its name playing "large band dixieland", much of it arranged by Haggart, and was famous also for its "band within a band" — the Bob Cats.

Haggart's experience on several instruments gave him an intuitive understanding of how to write for a jazz group, and how best to feature the instrumental colours and improvisatory talents of its soloists. His most successful ventures for Crosby's band include the atmospheric setting for the clarinet solo by Irving

Fazola on *Spain*, Billy Butterfield's trumpet solo on *I'm Free* (which became the well-known ballad *What's New?*) and full band treatments of *Diga, Diga Doo* and *Stomp Off Let's Go*.

What marked him out was his ability to hear how musical material of all kinds could be corralled to suit his purpose. With Crosby, he demonstrated this with the gospel tune *I'm Praying Hallelujah*, but in later life he was just as astute in spotting how the World's Greatest Jazz Band could make convincing jazz out of Simon and Garfunkel songs. During his time with Bob Crosby's band, which broke up in 1942, Haggart began to win popularity polls as a bassist but, though his playing was dependable and swinging, it was his writing and arranging that made him one

of the band's most valuable members. These were the talents he chose to consolidate in the 1940s, working as a studio arranger and composer, while playing bass as a freelance around New York. His trademark — whistling through his teeth — featured on a number of discs including Muggsy Spanier's 1945 *Feather Brain Blues*.

Haggart's writing can be heard on albums by Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday and, perhaps most significantly, Louis Armstrong's multi-disc *Musical Autobiography*. He also wrote the arrangements for a 1958 orchestral disc of music from *Porgy and Bess*, which he considered one of his finest achievements.

It was, however, the band he began with the trumpeter Yank Lawson that dominated Haggart's playing life from

1952. Together they fronted a number of successful studio sessions, and in due course this led to the creation of the "World's Greatest" band, a marketing tag wished on the musicians by their wealthy backers Dick Gibson and Barker Hickox.

The group toured Britain in the early 1970s, its concerts a mix of stirring Chicagoan dixieland from players like Bud Freeman and Billy Butterfield, and a novel repertoire built mostly around Haggart's inventive arrangements.

When this band broke up in 1978, Lawson and Haggart continued to lead similar groups on the touring and festival circuit, as well as participating in reunions with former Crosby band personnel, until Lawson's death in 1995. British audiences had looked forward to hearing Haggart at the 1998 Brecon Festival with Dick Hyman's group, but ill-health prevented him from travelling abroad, although he continued to play within the United States.

He took part in a BBC Radio 3 *Jazz Notes* tribute to the World's Greatest Jazz Band a few days before his death.

His wife Helen Fray died in 1994 after 56 years of marriage, but he is survived by his son, the drummer Bob Haggart Jr.

KEITH SMITH

Keith Smith, television press officer, died from complications after a heart operation, on December 22 aged 61. He was born on August 21, 1937.

KEITH SMITH was one of the predominant and most colourful television press officers of the 1970s and 1980s — a wit and sometimes a cynic, but a kindly one. Lately, he began a second career, writing for television.

John Keith Smith was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Bristol University, where he read English, philosophy and psychology. He then joined the *Stockport Advertiser*, becoming news editor, before he moved to the BBC in Manchester. There he was appointed assistant information officer, a kind of spin doctor for the corporation.

As publicity officer for BBC light entertainment in 1967, he arrived at Television Centre at a time when audiences for comedy and entertainment were rising rapidly and there were accolades from home and overseas. With quiet skill he took charge of the publicity for stars such as Marty Feldman, Petula Clark, Shirley Bassey and Barry Humphries, as well as for some of the best loved shows on television, including *Morcombe* and



Wise, *The Two Ronnies* and *Till Death Do Us Part*.

Within the Comedy Department, he was also a great supporter of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, which offended many with its zany and sometimes tasteless humour. Both inside and outside the BBC there were critics, but Smith — along with the Comedy Department's adviser Barry Took — gradually persuaded them that it was good and funny as well as original.

Yet Smith was cautious about the publicity for BBC programmes, not wanting it to run away from him. Took

once labelled him "head of low profile" because of his view that it was more important to keep the bad news out of the papers than to get the good news into them — even though in those days there was much more good news than bad.

Smith was duly promoted to chief press officer, a role in which he flourished, until in 1980 he was headhunted by Paul Fox to be head of press and publicity at Yorkshire Television. He stayed there for four years, before moving over to join Central Television as controller of public affairs.

Later, he left the television studios to pursue his ambition to write for the medium he knew so well. His originality can be gauged from his ideas and storylines, such as asking himself how the Christian religion would have developed if baby Jesus had been a girl. The result was his first big success, Channel 4's *The Other Christmas Story*, screened in 1996. He then formed the Brass Monkey Company, which has a number of programmes in production.

Never physically robust, Smith liked to take long holidays in the warmth of the Caribbean or Portugal, where he would sit, floppy hat on head, writing, translating or adapting. He was not married.

JOHN PULMAN

John Pulman, snooker champion and commentator, died on Christmas Day aged 75. He was born on December 12, 1923.

JOHN PULMAN was one of the most endearing and enduring figures that snooker has known in its long history. A sporting gentleman of a type now fading into history, he brought a touch of style to everything he did.

At the height of his prowess he won the world professional title on eight occasions, but he and his contemporaries were never as richly rewarded for their successes as the modern professionals, for their heyday came when snooker was in its most depressed state in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Pulman's playing career, already in decline was abruptly terminated in 1981 when he was struck down by a London bus. The near-fatal accident left him with a left leg held together with steel pins. He was in hospital for six months. He was to admit later that

the accident was a blessing in disguise. He had lost all enthusiasm for the playing of the game, although he still felt great affection for snooker, and here was a readymade excuse to retire.

His vast experience then served him well in other ways. The fact that he was possessed of a deep, resonant voice, a ready wit and a mastery of knowledge of snooker was quickly exploited by television executives, who employed Pulman as a commentator. He took to his new job so naturally that he became, once again, revered as the best in his field, albeit a less taxing one. He worked for the BBC, ITV and RTE in Ireland, and was most recently to be heard in this year's Irish Masters.

Born in the West Country, Herbert John Pulman was the son of a former baker who owned a tiny snooker club (it had only two tables), and Pulman was an unknown when he won the English amateur title at the age of 20. With the backing of a Bristol

businessman he turned professional in the same year and won £400 in his first professional tournament, the Empire News event.

His progress towards the world professional title — and he was the first former English amateur champion to win it — was less giddy, however. He lost to Fred Davis in the 1954 world semi-final and also in the 1955 and 1956 finals before finally capturing the world crown in Jersey the following year with a victory over Jackie Rea.

After that, Pulman, Davis, Rea and the only other professional to stay the course of the snooker depression, Rex Williams, had to survive on their wits and on the holiday camp and exhibition circuits to earn a living, until the world championship was finally resurrected in 1964.

Pulman was again successful, beating Davis to win a title that he thereafter successfully defended six times, on a challenge basis, against Davis twice, Williams twice, Freddie

van Rensburg of South Africa and the Australian, Eddie Charlton.

The modern knockout format for the world championship was introduced in 1969, and although Pulman suffered an embarrassing first-round defeat by the emerging John Spencer, he reached the final the following year, losing to Ray Reardon, and in 1977, by then in his fifties, he reached the semi-finals, losing only by 18-16 to Spencer.

He was never again to progress beyond the first round, and in 1980 he failed even to qualify for the final stages. But as one phase of his career drew to a close with the intervention of London Transport, another, less stressful one, was to allow him to stay an esteemed and much-loved member of the snooker family. He was presented with an award for services to the game by the Snooker Writers' Association in 1993.

Pulman's 25-year marriage ended in divorce, but he is survived by three children.



HITLER'S PAPERS FOUND

BERLIN, Dec. 30 — The text has been issued here of Hitler's political testament and personal will, and an appendix to the political testament signed by Goebbels. All three documents are dated April 29, the day before Hitler's death. In the political testament Hitler appointed Dönitz as his successor in place of Goebbels and nominated the new government under him. In the personal will Hitler announces his decision to marry Eva Braun and their intention to commit suicide, expressing the wish that their bodies should be burnt immediately afterwards. In the appendix Goebbels announces his intention to die with his wife and children at the Führer's side. The three documents have long been known to British intelligence through captured telegrams from Bornemann, Goebbels and Dönitz. It was also known that three copies were made and signed. All three copies were sent from Berlin on April 29 to reliable officers, but none was delivered. One copy was found in the British zone sewn into the clothes of a messenger. After careful scrutiny it is pronounced as authentic beyond doubt. Since the discovery of this document in the

ON THIS DAY

December 31, 1945

The last days of Hitler, and the events that brought to an end the German Third Reich, were dramatically revealed by the publication of the following documents.

British zone British and American intelligence officers have found another copy in the American zone. The discovery of this set of documents, believed to be the only one with the marriage certificate of Hitler and Eva Braun attached, was announced this week-end by the American Third Army. In the appendix to the political testament, Goebbels states that for the first time he must categorically refuse to obey an order of the Führer — namely, to leave Berlin should the defence collapse and become a leading member in a government appointed by Hitler.

He believed that by staying he was doing the best service to the future German people: in hard times to come examples would be more than men. His children, were they old enough, would agree with the decision taken for them.

Hitler's political testament is divided into two parts. The first contains the familiar tirade disclaiming responsibility for the war; which he blames on the "ruling political clique" in England, the tool of international Jewry. Though he himself chooses death, the German people must continue fighting with all possible means.

NUKEMBERG, Dec. 30 — Goebbels in his appendix to Hitler's will declared: "The Führer has ordered me to leave Berlin if the defence of the Reich capital collapses, and to take part as leading member in a government appointed by him. My wife and children join me in this refusal. In the nightmare of treason which surrounds the Führer in these critical days of the war there must be at least some people to stay with him, unconditionally until death. I believe I am thereby doing the best service to the future of the German people." Goebbels's body was found on July 2, 1945, in a courtyard of the Reich Chancellery. According to Russian statements, it was "unmistakably identified" and Goebbels had committed suicide. — Reuters.

NEWS

Four die in avalanche

An inquiry was launched last night into an avalanche that claimed four lives in the worst accident on Scotland's mountains in 27 years.

Captives were human shields

Freed British hostages in Yemen told how they were used as human shields during the bungled raid on their kidnappers' mountain hideout.

Honours list

John Major today receives unprecedented recognition for his role as peacemaker in Northern Ireland by being made a Companion of Honour.

Submarine danger

Marine archaeologists fear that the world's first engine-powered submarine, which sank off North Wales 120 years ago, is in more danger now than at any time since its inventor watched it disappear beneath the waves.

Dome cross

The symbol of Christ's Crucifixion in the Millennium Dome will be a "multimedia installation" in the shape of a cross, according to the blueprint for the controversial Spirit Zone.

Iraq attack

Iraq fired six to eight surface-to-air missiles at an RAF Tornado yesterday, prompting a substantial response from American fighters in the no-fly zone.

Stolen masterpiece

French authorities have prevented one of Monet's waterlily masterpieces from being shown because they believe that it may have been stolen by Nazis.

Millennium rehearsal

Four cities are throwing their first huge New Year's Eve celebrations in a dress rehearsal for the eve of the millennium. They are vying to become the 21st century's Edinburgh.

Church threat

Historic stained-glass windows in churches many of which have already been damaged by the passage of centuries, face a more serious threat from vandals and burglars.

Man finds his unknown son

When Vladimir Gusiyeve walked his dog, he took a shine to a woman he saw taking her son to nursery. Within months the three were living together. Then friends began to comment on how little Misha was the spitting image of his new father.



Tom Rowlandson from the First Battalion, The Highlanders, leaves for Macedonia from Teesside airport yesterday

Amault goes: Bernard Amault, chairman of LVMH, stepped down from the board of Diageo, fueling speculation that the French luxury goods group may sell some of its £2.6 billion stake.

ECB chief Wim Duisenberg reopened the political dispute about the Presidency of the European Central Bank insisting that he would not make way for a French ECB President after just half of his scheduled eight year term.

Rugby union: Kingsley Jones, the Wales and Gloucester flanker, will not play again this season after rupturing an Achilles tendon in the match against Wasps.

Bryant's Eye: Sport can be stranger than fiction, and one of the great joys of sporting progress is that records, however fantastic, are simply there to be broken.

Cricket: Shane Warne, a thorn in England's side over three previous series, has been unexpectedly recalled by Australia for the final Test in Sydney.

Football: Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, reckons that they are on target to finish 14 points better off than last season, which may be enough to win them the Premiership title.

Country dancing: The Royal Ballet revives Frederick Ashton's tender, affectionate staging of La Fille Mal Gardée at the Festival Hall.

Unsung heroes: In the second of our series on forgotten characters, Richard Cork recalls Frida Strindberg and her infamous Cave of the Golden Calf.

New movies: By far the best of a thin bunch this week is Star Trek: Insurrection, the ninth outing for the space adventurers.

French farce: France's film-makers are demanding to be freed from the shackles of Government movie-making protection in order to take on Hollywood with English-language features.

Country dancing: The Royal Ballet revives Frederick Ashton's tender, affectionate staging of La Fille Mal Gardée at the Festival Hall.

Unsung heroes: In the second of our series on forgotten characters, Richard Cork recalls Frida Strindberg and her infamous Cave of the Golden Calf.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: New year resolutions; depression; the benefits of moderate beer-drinking; hypothermia, and the best of the new drugs.

All our yesteryears: Jack Lonsdale highlights next year's commemorations, including the 350th anniversary of Charles I's execution.

Country dancing: The Royal Ballet revives Frederick Ashton's tender, affectionate staging of La Fille Mal Gardée at the Festival Hall.

Unsung heroes: In the second of our series on forgotten characters, Richard Cork recalls Frida Strindberg and her infamous Cave of the Golden Calf.

Preview: Decisive Moments Images from the news in 1998 (BBC2, 6.45) Review: Peter Barnard finds a drama masterclass. Pages 50, 51

Back from the brink The decision by the Greek and Cypriot governments not to deploy Russian missiles on Cyprus is the first good news from the eastern Mediterranean for months. Page 23

Purple Haze The brief but blazing rock career of Jimi Hendrix both led and in some ways epitomised the revolutionary spirit of the Sixties. Page 23

Ninetees man Today the nation rightly recognises Ralph Lee MBE - the spiritual founding father of British caravanning. Page 23

ANATOLE KALETSKY Isn't it equally likely that the European idea of competing against the dollar will be to drive the euro up instead of down? And isn't it almost certain that the new European Central Bank will prove even more narrow-minded and deflationary than the Bundesbank? Page 22

MAGNUM LINKLATER "But at my back I always hear/ Times' winged chariot hurrying near." And I remembered what came next: "And yonder all before us lie/ Deserts of vast eternity." Faced with the choice between time's winged chariot and a desert of vast eternity, I'll opt for the chariot until next year. Page 22

SIMON BARNES So were the fallen innocents. I bleed a little for them, I touch wood, I say there but for the grace of God. But I will get on a horse again; already I am planning once again to walk with lionFear completes us; fear joins up the domestic circle. Inside most of us there is something that seeks, as it were, the perfect bungee jump. Page 22

Reviews: Erica Wagner looks beneath the skin of Bret Easton Ellis's bright young things. Authors reviewed include Neil Belton's life of the campaigning Helen Bamber, Harry Ricketts's Rudyard Kipling and Nouriz Matossian's Arshile Gorky, the Armenian painter. Helen Dunmore on new fiction based on history. Pages 40, 41

Lady Glendevon, daughter of Somerset Maugham; Bob Haggart, jazz composer; John Putman, snooker champion; Keith Smith, TV press officer. Page 25

To hear Larry Flynt tell it, the idea of paying for the sex secrets of Republicans was entirely his idea. He has had neither help nor encouragement from the Clinton White House. One would hate to suggest that a pornographer's word isn't gold, but it really is to be believed; that Mr. Flynt and President Clinton have no channels between them. The Washington Times

Donor's consent to organ transplants; Oxford's traffic system; drug testing on animals; political parties' registration; local council powers; the Dome. Page 23



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

THE MEDIA Raymond Snoddy wonders whether the public are saying enough is enough

EDUCATION Can big money and business acumen boost school standards in deprived areas?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,988

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating the starting positions for the clues. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS 1 To avoid danger, eat only eggs now? (4,4,5). 9 Briefly held what Cleopatra fatally grasped in embrace? (7). 10 In dismay about costume? (7). 11 Australian river backing up produces impressive display? (5). 12 Taking in sailors and soldiers with talent? (9). 13 Proverbially lifeless stud? (8). 15 Temporary relief from wild plan? Not always? (6). 18 Deny outside is blue? (6). 19 Broadcast route covers motorway? (8). 22 Person keeping a discount in error? (9). 24 Dough essential to keep a stable? (5).

A solution to a crossword puzzle. The words are arranged in a grid, with some words highlighted in bold. The words include: ACHILLESHEEL, CHAIRMAN, DRY, PUPPIN, BIRTHDAY, BARDIC, EOK, HARDSHELL, COOPERAGE, HORUM, BLISTERPACKS.

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Monitoring Sun in C F Max F Min F Sun in C F Max F Min F

Sun sets: 8.06 am Sun rises: 4.02 pm Moon sets: 5.48 am Moon rises: 2.59 pm

Full moon January 2 London 4.01 pm to 8.06 am Bristol 4.21 pm to 8.16 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up of 65.0% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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General: mostly cloudy, windy, particularly in W Scotland and N Ireland, where there will be rain, which will spread east. Central parts likely to see sunny breaks. Eastern Scotland and eastern England will have outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Tonight, rain and drizzle will persist in E. Showers, windy in N Ireland and W Scotland.

Table with columns for location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min, Wind, Clouds, Fog, etc. for various UK cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc.

Yesterday: highest day max: Torquay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Belfast, 7C (45F); most rain: Ballypatrick Forest, Moyla, 0.87in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 4.7hr

Table with columns for city, temperature, and other weather-related data for various international cities like Accio, Madrid, Rome, etc.

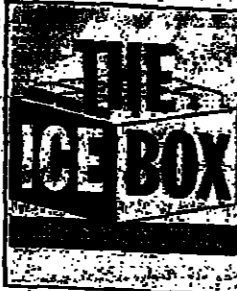


Changes to chart from noon: low A merges with low U, fills in situ, losing its identity. Low T runs NE, slowly fills. High B builds, slips eastwards



Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT, showing temperature and weather conditions for various locations.

IDECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Music chiefs belatedly take the road to Rio PAGE 31



ARTS Spring in their steps: Ashton's classic ballet PAGES 37-39



SPORT Australia turn to Warne for Sydney Test PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 1998

Arnault quits Diageo board

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BERNARD Arnault, chairman of LVMH, yesterday stepped down from the board of Diageo...

Resignation opens way for LVMH to sell £2.6bn stake

drink behemoth. LVMH is the group's biggest shareholder. Observers believe the timing of his resignation...

480m to almost 700p may also be a factor. In a statement, M Arnault said: "I feel it is now the right time to step down from the board of Diageo since I am no longer able to make the full contribution I would like to make."

ing his ten years as a director of the British group. In July 1997 he left the board of Guinness and GrandMet to create Diageo. But even when relations have been cordial his attendances at board meetings have been no more than occasional.

a £250 million payment in return for giving his assent to the merger of Guinness and GrandMet to create Diageo. But even when relations have been cordial his attendances at board meetings have been no more than occasional.

group that combines wine and spirits with Burger King restaurants, Guinness brewing and Pillsbury food products. In recent weeks, there has been speculation that M Arnault might offload some of the Diageo stake to fund a £500 million bid for the beauty products division of Sanofi...

But LVMH followers believe M Arnault is unlikely to rest on his laurels and may yet hit the acquisition trail as he seeks to offset LVMH's exposure to Asia, which accounts for a hefty 40 per cent of profits. One quipped: "Who knows. Perhaps he'll launch a bid for Diageo?" Tony Greener, chairman of Diageo, said he accepted M Arnault's reasons for deciding to step down, adding: "We wish him well for the future." The group said it had no plans to replace him. Diageo's shares closed 21p lower at 684p.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with columns for STOCK MARKET, FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, US RATE, Federal Funds, Long bond, Yield, LONDON MONEY, 3-mth interbank, Life long gil, Future (Mar), STERLING, New York, London, DM, SF, Yen, £ index, Tokyo close Yen, NORTH SEA OIL, Brent 15-day Mar, GOLD, London close.

President of ECB to upset French by staying full term

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WIM DUISENBERG reopened the political dispute about the Presidency of the European Central Bank by saying that he would not make way for a French ECB President after just half of his scheduled eight-year term.

Asked by Le Monde, the French newspaper, if he would resign after four years, Mr Duisenberg said: "I hoped you wouldn't ask me that question. The answer is no."

The French Government has claimed that a compromise agreement in which Mr Duisenberg stepped down in favour of Jean-Claude Trichet, the outgoing Governor of the Bank of France, was reached after a turbulent EU summit in May. However, Mr Duisenberg has hinted that no formal agreement was reached.

Mr Duisenberg's comments received immediate support from Hans Eberhard, the outgoing Bundesbank President and ECB council member, who said it was clear that it has always been down to "Mr Duisenberg alone" when he chooses to step down.

The ECB President also presented an optimistic view of the economic outlook for Europe next year, predicting that euro-area growth would reach between 2.25 per cent and 2.5 per cent. New economic data published yesterday also showed both inflation and money supply easing lower in the euro area, raising market hopes that the ECB will consider cutting rates early next year.

Consumer price inflation in the euro area fell from 1 per cent to 0.9 per cent in November, according to figures from Eurostat, the statistical agency. The M3 measure of money supply, which the ECB has indicated will be one of its principal inflation indicators, slowed from 5 per cent in October to 4.5 per cent in November, leaving it below the ECB's target rate. The less volatile three-month moving average registered 4.7 per cent.

Ulrich Beckmann, senior economist at Deutsche Bank, said: "Money supply growth remains adequate and I think the growth rate would have to come outside the range before the ECB seriously considers any action."

Commentary, page 31



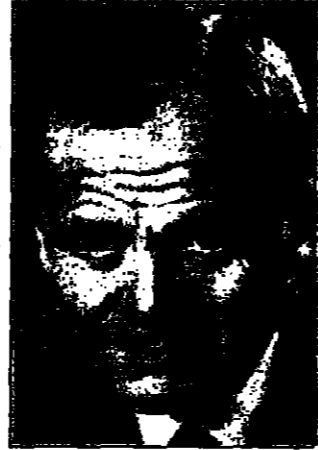
Sir Alex Trotman, who worked his way up from student trainee to head of Ford, will become a life peer



Kemp-Welch: Exchange chief knighted



Harry Roche, PA chairman, was honoured with a knighthood



Gibson: Nissan UK chief



Victor Blank, the Mirror Group chairman, is honoured

Ford's chief leads the way with life peerage

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SIR Alex Trotman, who worked his way up from student trainee at Ford's Dagenham plant to head of the Ford Motor Company worldwide, has been made a life peer in the New Year Honours. Sir Alex, who was born in Middlesex but later took US citizenship, retired as chairman and chief executive in September, handing over the reins to William Ford Jr, the great-grandson of Henry Ford, the legendary founder of the company. During his five years at the helm, the group's market capitalisation almost tripled in value. The Honours list also includes a knighthood for Ian Gibson, who spent 16 years with Ford before joining its Japanese rival, Nissan, in 1984. Mr Gibson is chief executive of Nissan's UK manufac-

turing arm, whose Sunderland plant recently came top of a European productivity league table. Elsewhere, there were knightships for John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the London Stock Exchange, John Guinness, chairman of British Nuclear Fuels, George Honours - pages 8,9 and 52

Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland; Harry Roche, chairman of the Press Association; and Victor Blank, the former Charterhouse boss who is now chairman of the Mirror Group and deputy chairman of Great Universal Stores. Also knighted is Anwar Perviz, chairman of the Bestway

cash-and-carry empire. A farmer's son, he came to Britain in the 1950s and worked as a Bradford bus conductor before entering business. He and his family are sitting on a reputed £120 million fortune, enabling him to send his sons to Eton. Those appointed CBE include Garry Hawkes, chairman of Gardner Merchant, the contract caterer; Brian Ivory, chairman of Highland Distillers, the Scotch whisky maker; Michael Marks, executive chairman of Merrill Lynch's European arm; and Graham Hawker, chief executive of Hyder, the Welsh utilities group. Clare Spottiswoode, whose clashes with British Gas were a regular feature of her tenure as gas industry regulator, also becomes CBE.



Guinness: head of BNFL



Perviz: Bestway chairman

Market 15% up on year as rally fizzles out

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE end-of-year rally in the stock market fizzled out yesterday but investors were still left sitting on gains of nearly 15 per cent across the year as a whole. In a shortened trading session, ahead of an extra day's market holiday because of the introduction of the euro, the FTSE 100 index closed down 58.9 points at 5,882.6.

At one stage the market had fallen 132.5 points. But volume remained very light at just 171 million shares, with most traders waiting for the first post-euro trading on Monday. Trade was virtually non-existent in other European markets, with Frankfurt completing its last mark-denominated session down 49.63 at 5,006.57. In early trading, Wall Street also slipped slightly.

Paris bucked the trend to record a gain of 0.5 per cent, leaving the market up 31.5 per cent across the calendar year. The FTSE 100 started the year at 5,135.5 and peaked at a record high of 6,183.7 in July. However, the market turmoil in late summer sent the FTSE plummeting to 4,599.2 in early October before the year-end rally took the market back into positive territory.

Market report, page 30

BP Amoco gets US green light

US regulators have given the go ahead to the merger of British Petroleum and Amoco, removing the final obstacle to the creation of Britain's largest company, BP Amoco, with a market value of £84 billion. The Federal Trade Commission has ordered the sale of 134 petrol stations and nine storage terminals. BP Amoco must also give 1,600 independent owners the option of switching gasoline brands. The disposals could total \$150 million. BP Amoco will be the world's third-largest oil company. Shares in the merged group will join the FTSE 100 and begin trading on January 4.

Commentary, page 31

INTEREST RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 31 DECEMBER 1998. Table with columns for 90 Day Notice, Minimum balance, Annual gross p.a., Monthly gross p.a. Interest rates on Offshore Instant Access, Offshore Taxwise, Offshore Monthly Income, Offshore Special Term Deposit and Two Year Deposit Bond accounts have also changed. For more information please call 01624 681100. Britannia International.

Names poised to dwindle further in 1999

BY ADAM JONES

TRADITIONAL Lloyd's "names" - the wealthy individuals who, since the 18th century, have been prepared to lose everything they own underwriting insurance risks - will become even more of an endangered species next year. Figures released yesterday by Lloyd's showed that only 4,712 of these

unlimited liability investors will be pledging money to support the historic London insurance market in 1999. This compares with 6,835 in 1998 and 34,218 in the boom year of 1989. The exodus of traditional names has been a fact of life at Lloyd's for several years. To stave off bankruptcy in the early 1990s - a crisis that ruined many names and left them desperate for an exit route - Lloyd's

looked to bring in a new type of investor to strengthen its reserves. From 1994, it accepted money from "corporate" sources, such as pooled investment funds, with limited liability. In 1999, 73 per cent of capacity will be backed by limited liability investors. A core of traditional names have rallied against the growing dominance of corporate capital, saying they want to carry on underwriting in

the old way rather than become a shareholder in an investment vehicle. Some corporate capital providers have been equally vociferous in saying that the old system of individual participation is unnecessarily expensive, helping foreign insurance centres such as Bermuda. A working group has been set up by Lloyd's to see how private capital might have a future in the London market.

Lloyd's also said yesterday that its members, both traditional and corporate, are likely to be underwriting less business in 1999 because premium rates are weak and profits hard to come by. The projected underwriting capacity for 1999 is £9.87 billion, down from £10.17 billion in 1998. The number of syndicates will also dwindle in response to the poor market conditions, dropping from 155 to 139.

GRE confirms appointment of Vickers head as chairman

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE embattled insurer Guardian Royal Exchange has announced that Sir Colin Chandler is to be installed as chairman in April.

Sir Colin, 59, chairman of Vickers, the defence and engineering group, is already a non-executive director of GRE. As revealed in *The Times* a fortnight ago, he will succeed Lord Hambro, 68, as non-executive chairman at the composite insurer's annual meeting on April 28.

Analysts welcomed news of the appointment, which they said would help to boost GRE's management at a time when its future is uncertain. GRE effectively put itself up for sale this month after receiving an informal approach from AXA, the French insurer that owns Sun Life. AXA's bid was conditional on GRE's board being restructured.

GRE has also been drawing up contingency plans to continue as an independent company if it does not receive an acceptable bid. Analysts said that Sir Colin's expertise would add weight to any battle against a hostile bidder.

Asked whether the company was confident that it would still be an independent group



Sir Colin Chandler will become non-executive chairman at GRE's annual meeting on April 28

by April, a GRE spokesman said. "We are looking at a number of options and hope to make an announcement by the end of January." Shares in GRE yesterday fell 7p to 337p.

Royal & Sun Alliance, Allianz, the German insurance group, Independent Insurance and AIG of the US have expressed interest in buying parts of the group.

John Robins, the 59-year-old chief executive of GRE, is not expected to stay at the company for the long term and Sir Colin will play a significant role in choosing a new chief executive when Mr Robins decides to retire.

Lord Hambro has been a member of the group board since 1968 and chairman since 1988.

Lord Hambro said: "Naturally, I am sad to be leaving the group after 30 years, but I know that I will be leaving it in good hands. Sir Colin has made a major contribution to the group since he joined the board in 1995 and I wish him every success in his new role as chairman."

Sir Colin is also a director of the TI Group, a member of the National Defence Industries Council and a vice-president of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

EMU exclusion hurt UK, says Mon

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN could face a "painful" new year because of its exclusion from the European single currency, the Trades Union Congress said yesterday.

John Monks, General Secretary, said: "Tomorrow, 11 countries will gain real economic advantage from the launch of the euro. Britain will be excluded from key economic decisions. It is beginning to look as if we have repeated the standard British error of coming too late to Europe to secure the best deal possible."

Echoing the warnings of manufacturing unions, Mr Monks said: "It is Britain's exclusion that has helped the currency markets see it as a suitable destination for hot money

and the result has been to push the pound higher. Staying out has cost jobs."

Referring to the forthcoming Fairness at Work legislation, Mr Monks said: "1999 will also be a year in which we continue to make the case for partnership at work and the contribution it can make to boosting Britain's competitiveness."

However, the British Chambers of Commerce cautioned that employment regulations would cause "havoc" among smaller companies. Chris Humphries, director-general, said demands such as Fairness at Work, the minimum wage and the working time directive could hamper growth.

He said: "Ironically, the

Government's current agenda on employment legislation represents by far the biggest threat to employment growth in the UK next year."

He said: "A raft of new workplace regulations is hitting smaller firms particularly hard, and with more to come in 1999, there exists a very real danger that these smaller businesses will be forced to call a halt to growth."

The new year is set to herald a recession in manufacturing industry leading to job losses, Sir Clive Thompson, President of the Confederation of British Industry, said in his new year message. He also said that Britain must play a significant role in Europe.

SFA closes down two firms

TWO firms suspended last week by Liffe, the London futures and derivatives exchange, have been closed down by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA).

The SFA, which polices stockbrokers and traders, said it had issued intervention orders requiring GLH (Derivatives), a firm of traders based in Colchester, and Griffin Trading Company, its clearing house, to cease

all investment business immediately. Both firms were declared to be in default by Liffe on Christmas Eve after a rogue trader at GLH lost \$8 million (£5 million) on a deal in German derivatives. The two companies will now be wound down by the SFA.

The scandal has sent shockwaves to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where Griffin's parent company - which now faces insolvency - was a member.

Other traders who cleared

their deals through Griffin, but had no connection with GLH, complained that the moves by Liffe and the SFA had prevented them from retrieving clients' money left in segregated accounts at Griffin. This was unfair and jeopardised their businesses, they said.

A spokesman for the SFA said traders would become creditors of Griffin and be entitled to take the company to court.

C&G Investment Rates Effective from 1 January 1999

Amount Invested	Interest Paid	NEW GROSS* AER** NET*	NEW GROSS* AER** NET*
C&G Direct Transfer Account			
£25,000 or more	Annually 6.50	6.50	5.20
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 6.40	6.40	5.12
£2,500 - £9,999	Annually 6.30	6.30	5.04
£25,000 or more	Monthly 6.31	6.50	5.05
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 6.22	6.40	4.98
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly 6.12	6.30	4.90
C&G Direct 90 Account			
£1,000 or more	Annually 6.50	6.50	5.20
£5,000 or more	Monthly 6.31	6.50	5.05
C&G Direct 30 Account			
£100,000 or more	Annually 6.50	6.50	5.20
£25,000 - £99,999	Annually 6.25	6.25	5.00
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 6.20	6.20	4.96
£100 - £9,999	Annually 5.45	5.45	4.36
£100,000 or more	Monthly 6.31	6.50	5.05
£25,000 - £99,999	Monthly 6.08	6.25	4.86
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 6.03	6.20	4.82
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly 5.32	5.45	4.25
Cheltenham Bank Gold			
£25,000 or more	Annually 3.15	3.15	2.52
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 2.85	2.85	2.12
£100 - £9,999	Annually 1.50	1.50	1.00
£10,000 or more	Monthly 3.10	3.15	2.48
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 2.82	2.85	2.09
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly 1.49	1.50	1.19
Closed accounts offering penalty-free switching			
Amount Invested	Interest Paid	NEW GROSS* AER** NET*	NEW GROSS* AER** NET*
C&G Instant Transfer Account			
£1,000 or more	Annually 6.50	6.50	5.20
£5,000 or more	Monthly 6.31	6.50	5.05
C&G Best 90 Account			
£100,000 or more	Annually 5.80	5.80	4.64
£25,000 - £99,999	Annually 5.65	5.65	4.52
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 5.15	5.15	4.12
£25,000 or more	Monthly 5.85	5.80	4.52
£25,000 - £99,999	Monthly 5.51	5.65	4.41
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 5.03	5.15	4.03
C&G Instant 7 Account			
£100,000 or more	Annually 5.50	5.50	4.40
£25,000 - £99,999	Annually 5.20	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 4.50	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually 4.15	4.15	3.32
£100,000 or more	Monthly 5.37	5.50	4.29
£25,000 - £99,999	Monthly 4.89	5.00	3.91
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 4.41	4.50	3.53
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly 4.07	4.15	3.26
C&G Golden Term Account			
£25,000 or more	Annually 5.65	5.65	4.52
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 5.15	5.15	4.12
£25,000 or more	Monthly 5.51	5.65	4.41
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 5.03	5.15	4.03
Bonham Deposit Account			
£25,000 or more	Annually 5.00	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually 4.50	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually 4.15	4.15	3.32
£25,000 or more	Monthly 4.89	5.00	3.91
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly 4.41	4.50	3.53
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly 4.07	4.15	3.26
C&G Investment Account			
£25,000 or more	Half-yearly 3.15	3.17	2.52
£10,000 - £24,999	Half-yearly 2.85	2.87	2.12
£100 - £9,999	Half-yearly 1.50	1.51	1.00
Cheltenham Instant Access			
£100 or more	Monthly 2.60	2.63	2.08

Cheltenham & Gloucester

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City fight to stay top starts with new euro rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S battle to remain the pre-eminent European financial centre after the advent of the single currency began in earnest yesterday with the launch of two competing euro benchmark lending rates.

The arrival of the euro has turned the usually arcane world of bank lending rates into a heated political arena after some European politicians and financial corporations decided that important euro interest rates should not be set in London.

As a result, the euro version of the London inter-bank lending rate, euro Libor, yesterday went head-to-head with a new reference rate, Euribor, sponsored by the Banking Federation of the European Union and the Financial Markets Association.

Interbank rates are used by financial companies as reference values for lending rates and by the financial markets to determine the value of interest-rate-sensitive derivatives.

The Euribor is set by 57 predominantly continental European-based banks, while the euro Libor is drawn from the interest rates of 16 international banks in London.

The British Bankers' Association, which oversees the euro Libor, played down the potential for competition between the two rates, saying both will happily co-exist. It expects the Euribor to dominate in the inter-bank market, while euro Libor will remain important in the international markets.

London's Liffe and Eurex, the Swiss-German derivatives exchange, intend to list futures contracts based on both rates. However, the other major futures exchanges in Europe are using the Euribor exclusively.

At the first fixing yesterday - which will come into use on January 4 - the three-month Euribor stood at 3.248 per cent, while the euro Libor was marginally lower at 3.241 per cent.

Broadgate purchase goes ahead

By CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH LAND has confirmed the acquisition of 100 Liverpool Street for £240 million, increasing the property group's control over the vast Broadgate office development in the City of London.

The 382,000 sq ft building, which also fronts the Broadgate Arena, is being sold by UBS, the Swiss bank that occupies the property and which acquired 100 Liverpool Street when it closed on a £200 million loan to the original developer, Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments.

British Land is buying a UBS subsidiary which owns a virtual freehold on the site (a 999-year lease at a pepper corn rent). In turn, the property company is granting a new 24-year lease to UBS for Warburg Dillon Read, the investment banking arm of the Swiss group, at a rent of £16.2 million.

The addition of 100 Liverpool Street will increase British Land's Broadgate investment to 3.3 million sq ft. Only two properties, the Bankers Trust building at Appold Street and 155 Bishopsgate, owned by Prudential of America, remain outside its control.

Electricity boost for BNFL

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BNFL, the nuclear reprocessor and generator, has secured the right to send electricity from Scotland to England in a move that guarantees the future of its power station on the Solway Firth.

The industry regulator yesterday rejected a bid by ScottishPower to take control of all of the exporting capacity of the interconnector between Scotland and England next March - when a contract allowing BNFL access expires. Stephen Littlechild, ordered ScottishPower to make available 196 megawatts of capacity to BNFL until 2002. He said: "I look to ScottishPower to put in place revised arrangements to ensure that BNFL and other competitors can continue to have access beyond that period."

Professor Littlechild said ScottishPower had a duty to make the interconnector available to competitors. The interconnector exports power because electricity is generally generated more cheaply in Scotland than England and Wales. Scotland does not have a trading system such as the English and Welsh pool.

Burger rivals plan expansion

BURGER KING and McDonald's made their annual promise of new jobs yesterday - pledging to recruit another 9,000 staff during 1999. Burger King, owned by Dineco, said it will sign up another 3,500 workers next year to take its portfolio of restaurants from 523 to around 630. McDonald's, which is almost twice the size of Burger King with 922 restaurants in the UK, responded by promising to add more than 400 outlets this year to take it comfortably past the target figure of 1,000 set five years ago.

Their target workforce will be aged under 21, exempt from the Government's £3.60-an-hour minimum wage. Workers' ages between 18 and 21 can still be paid the going City rate of £3.30 an hour. The two companies now employ 73,500 workers in Britain, about 60,000 of whom are aged under 21.

BA currency move

BRITISH AIRWAYS will begin to start booking flights paid for in euros, flying its decision as the first UK company dealing in the currency. Passengers flying from any of the 11 euroland countries can pay in euros for their flights and compare fares available in different countries using the same currency. Flights from the UK can also be paid for in euros, converted from sterling at the going rate. BA generates 30 per cent of its business from flying to and from continental Europe.

US indicator on the up

A LEADING forecasting index for the US economy rose at the fastest rate in nearly three years during November, pointing to robust growth in 1999. The Conference Board's Index of Leading Indicators rose by 0.6 per cent last month, its biggest rise since February 1996. Money supply and the behaviour of Treasury prices were seen as harbingers of strength in the report, but the strongest component in the index was stock prices, which saw a huge rebound in November.

FSA ahead of schedule

THE Financial Services Authority will assume control over insurance companies, building societies and friendly societies tomorrow, becoming a fully integrated regulator a year early. The FSA was to incorporate the HM Treasury's Insurance Directorate, Building Societies Commission, Friendly Societies Commission and Registry of Friendly Societies when the Financial Services and Markets Bill is enacted in 2000. But after taking legal advice the FSA said it can supervise the bodies from 1999.

Shell in rubber sale

SHELL has sold its synthetic rubber businesses to Dow Chemical for an undisclosed sum. Dow is buying Shell's General Purpose Rubber (GPR), which makes polybutadiene rubber and emulsion styrene butadiene rubber at Shell's plants at Berre in France and Pernis in The Netherlands. Dow is acquiring the assets, technology, sales and marketing of GPR while Shell continues to operate the plants at Berre and Pernis on behalf of the US chemicals giant.

Alfred McAlpine deals

ALFRED McALPINE, the housebuilder and construction group, has won three contracts worth £104 million. The company was awarded an £80 million contract, in a joint venture with AMEC, to build part of the Channel Tunnel rail link. It also won a £14 million infrastructure contract for a housing and commercial development in Northampton, as well as a £10 million facilities management contract at three quarries owned by Tarmac Quarry Products.

Loss for Golden Land

GOLDEN LAND INVESTMENTS, the property developer with interests in the UK and China, has reported increased interim losses. The company said that unlike in the comparable period in 1997, no sales of property were made in the six months to September 30. It blamed the strength of sterling and exchange-rate movements for losses of £187,750 for the period, from losses of £76,934 last time. The net asset value was 23p per share at September 30 (21p). There is no dividend.

Fall in French jobless

FRANCE's unemployment rate fell to 11.5 per cent in November, the third consecutive monthly decline and the lowest rate since October 1995. Last month, 4,700 workers left the jobless queues to leave the number of unemployed in Europe's second largest economy at 2.9 million. While unemployment has fallen steadily from a postwar record of 12.6 per cent in June 1997, the jobless level is still one of Europe's highest, surpassed only by Spain and Italy.

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	20.55	19.00	Japan Yen	206.50	198.25
Austria Sch	60.75	55.50	Mark	0.654	0.605
Belgium F	2.709	2.552	Netherlands Gld	3.358	3.043
Canada C	0.6719	0.6304	New Zealand \$	3.52	3.05
Denmark Kr	13.22	10.33	Norway Nkr	13.26	12.32
France FF	6.55	6.28	Portugal Esc	206.89	276.96
Germany DM	2.366	2.174	Saudi R	10.47	9.55
Greece Dr	9.04	8.29	Spain Ptas	248.18	230.39
Hong Kong	12.77	12.57	Swedish Kr	14.32	13.22
India Rupee	139	108	Switzerland Fr	2.462	2.224
Indonesia	17052	12052	Taiwan NT	54.705	50.689
Italy Lira	1.1771	1.0567	USA \$	1.778	1.635
	2938	2702			

Notes for main interconnector businesses only as supplied by British Bank. Different rates apply to interconnector contracts as at close of trading yesterday.

Oil giants need a richer mixture



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

The sound of shoulders being shrugged could be heard loud and clear from BP headquarters at Britannic House yesterday. The worst that the FTC could inflict on Sir John Browne's master plan was the sale of a few petrol stations in Tennessee.

Even assuming a generous million dollars for each retail outlet, BP is being allowed to launch itself into the top tier of the oil firmament with the loss of only \$130 million in assets.

Times have indeed changed. In 1911, when US regulators last had a major think about oil industry concentration, it broke up John D Rockefeller's Standard Oil. Today, its surviving entities are rejoining alliances; the FTC will now be considering the merger of the Standard Oil companies of New York and of New Jersey in the form of Exxon and Mobil.

The latter deal will be a harder case than BP Amoco but it is an indication that energy, in particular oil and gas, is no longer a strategic asset. In 1900 oil was the prize — control it and you had your finger on the pulse of the world's industrial economies. It was true too in 1973 when Opec flexed its muscles and delivered an inflationary cancer to the West in the form of expensive energy.

But only weeks ago, conflict again broke out in the Middle East, and the oil price barely started — it remains below \$11, shredding oil company margins

and crippling the economies of oil producing states.

However, look at the top companies in the FTSE and you will still find the oil; BP finished the year in third position after Glaxo Wellcome and British Telecom. Shell Transport, in the doghouse over huge writedowns and management turmoil, is still worth £36 billion and in sixth place.

The big numbers are impressive but hide a threat. While Glaxo and BT grew by 45 and 90 per cent, BP shares gained only 15 per cent this year and Shell Transport has shrunk.

Size is not the prize for BP's merger, as with Exxon and Mobil, the UK company has implicitly acknowledged it cannot grow in a world awash with oil. Amoco is the escape route: with aggressive pruning of Amoco's more top-heavy structure, BP can boost its profits and keep its shareholders content. If not happy, owning stock in a low-growth industry.

It is not a long-term solution. Companies like Shell, Exxon and BP face a difficult future if oil remains at \$10-\$12, as their operations will increasingly resemble utilities, pruning costs and chasing deals in the lower-cost Gulf as

contractors for Opec producers. If you are as big as Exxon or BP Amoco, the real competition is not rival Shell or Total, it is Microsoft and Glaxo Wellcome. Investors can see the difference in return and pick stocks accordingly.

Oil is not yet a sunset industry but we have probably gone past the meridian. In a deflationary world, knowledge rather than resources carries a premium. Big oil needs big ideas.

Internet companies ready to pounce

Anyone who has read about the rising (and inevitably collapsing) price of tulips in an economics text book will recognise the phenomenon currently gripping America. Internet stocks have turned in a staggering performance this year.

The share price of Amazon.com has risen tenfold. AOL.com is now bigger than Disney, Gillette or

General Motors. Even Sotheby's shares have doubled in the past three months on the spurious notion that it might start online auctions.

Similar bubbles have made previous generations on Wall Street rich. The last craze everyone remembers is the surge in biotechnology stocks in the early 1990s. Old-timers tell the stories of the 1968 franchise mania. Some even remember the 1961 bowling company bubble.

But the difference between the Internet craze and other postwar bubbles is the magnitude of the share price surge. Until the Internet came along, no top companies would trade on a double-digit earnings multiple. But online retailers and service providers such as AOL regularly trade on a multiple of more than 400.

Of course, everyone knows the current valuations are not sustainable. Received wisdom is that revenues and profits will one day match — and hopefully better —

the high share prices. Mainstream investors are betting on the Internet's commercial success. But the price surge has also added a new dimension to Wall Street's perception of these businesses. In the past, one owned an Internet company to be taken over eventually by Microsoft and get a huge premium.

With a multiple of 400, however, the companies have become almost impenetrable by takeovers. What chairman would launch a \$100 billion assault on AOL, which has revenues of less than \$3 billion and only occasional profits? Stephen Case, the AOL chief executive, probably has the safest job in the US today.

At the same time, Mr Case is in a perfect position to start playing the takeover game himself. His shares are a valuable and plentiful currency. With AOL's current market value of \$70 billion, he would have the pick of most companies outside the Dow Jones industrial average.

He may decide that the only way to avoid ending up like the tulips, is to turn his narrowly focused company into a more diversified media or communications business.

This may be the time when Internet companies turn from hunted into hunter.

Duisenberg shows his teeth

While the markets have been content to sit back and wait, Wim Duisenberg has not shied away from injecting a touch of last-minute controversy into tomorrow's launch of the single currency. Now that not even a fit of Gallic pique can derail the euro, the President of the European Central Bank decided to inform the French public that he will not step down halfway through his allotted eight-year term to allow a Frenchman to take over. With a water-tight contract already signed, there is little the French can do to change the Dutchman's mind.

Although yesterday's comments will chiefly annoy the French, Mr Duisenberg also provided plenty of evidence to sug-

gest that he intends to be both equitable and entertaining in his attempts to distance the ECB from the politicians. He attacked Governments (Germany) which want to lower interest rates rather than tackle structural reforms to reduce unemployment. He warned countries (Italy, Belgium) against relaxing fiscal discipline now that they were euro members. Even opt-out Britain is not considered outside the President's sphere. Mr Duisenberg criticising this country's "psychopolitical" reasons for remaining aloof from the single currency.

Unlike the politicians, Mr Duisenberg claimed he had no desire "to be liked" but simply wanted "the euro to inspire confidence". The battle for the heart and soul of the ECB has already started.

Honouring the car

HEARTY congratulations to Ford's Sir Alex Trotman and Nissan's Ian Gibson for honours that pay tribute to the unsung recent success of motor manufacturing in Britain. Thanks to overseas multinationals like these, we are now once more a big car exporter as well as, less happily, still a huge importer. These are, however, survivors of a war that forced Britain into one of its most humiliating and damaging industrial defeats. Who now lays claim to being the biggest British-owned car manufacturer?

Virgin Vie founders to leave

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE couple who took the idea of starting up the Virgin Vie cosmetics business to Richard Branson are leaving the company.

Mark and Liz Warom are giving up their jobs as joint managing directors of the struggling Virgin Vie from today. The couple are still negotiating contract termination payoffs.

Virgin Vie is part of Victory, the stock market vehicle that is 55.1 per cent owned by Virgin. Rory and Tim McCarthy, the brothers who ran Victory at its inception, left the business earlier this year. Victory issued a profits warning in August.

Victory, whose shares are languishing at an all-time low of 9p, said the Waroms were looking at opportunities to set up a Virgin Vie business under licence in the US. There are now ten shops in the UK and Ireland, and 2,000 direct sales consultants.

John Jackson, who has worked for the Virgin Group for 12 years, is stepping in as acting chief executive.

The company, which is due to announce its interim results at the end of January, made a pre-tax loss of £9.7 million last year.

Minorco issues profits warning and cuts payout

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

FALLING copper and nitrogen prices have forced Minorco to issue its second profit warning in three months and to slash its final dividend payment to shareholders.

The Luxembourg-listed mining and minerals conglomerate, which is to merge with Anglo American next year, is cutting the second-half payment from 22 US cents to 8 cents per share.

Minorco independent shareholders will see their full-year income cut by more than half, reduced from 64 cents to 30 cents. However, the reduced dividend will mean that \$77 million (£45.75 million) will be retained by Minorco, thus benefiting Anglo American, the South African conglomerate which controls 46 per cent of Minorco and which has made a \$16 per share offer for the outstanding shares.

Minorco gave warning in September that earnings would be flat in the second half, but yesterday the company cautioned again about the impact of falling copper and nitrogen prices. "It is anticipated



Ogilvie Thompson: control

that earnings during the second half of the year will be very substantially below those recorded during the first half."

A spokesman for the company said Minorco's poor profits would not lead to a rethink of the \$3.6 billion valuation of the company under the Anglo bid, announced in October.

Minorco is a big copper producer and controls Terra, a US agribusiness firm with interests in nitrogen fertilisers. The latter has been hit by a decline in the US agricultural sec-

tor, while copper prices have fallen throughout the year.

Minorco is itself contributing to the copper meltdown having invested in one of the world's largest copper mines at Collahuasi in Chile. Collahuasi will have produced 70,000 tonnes of copper in 1998 but next year its output should total 400,000 tonnes, adding to a worldwide surplus.

Analysts reckon that at least part of Anglo's restructuring has been aimed at controlling the cashflow of the various strands of the Oppenheimer family's business empire, which is headed by Julian Ogilvie Thompson. The recent \$550 million sale of Minorco's gold interests to AngloGold will have substantially reduced Minorco's debts, thus helping the merged Anglo American to reduce its balance sheet gearing.

However, Minorco's share price has dipped to a slight discount to Anglo's \$16 offer, increasing the likelihood that investors may opt for cash rather than Anglo shares, increasing the call on Anglo's resources.

Minorco will make its final payment to shareholders as a second interim dividend on February 10.

National Savings cuts rates

By SUSAN EMMETT

NATIONAL Savings, which holds £64 billion in deposits, wished its savers a bleak new year yesterday by announcing it will be cutting its rates for the fifth time this year. Some of the reductions, which will range between 0.24 and 0.5 per cent, will take place immediately; others will be phased in over the next three months.

The cuts will particularly affect savers hoping to win a large cheque from Premium Bonds as the rate that governs the £1 billion prize fund will be cut to 4 per cent from April 1.

From mid-January, the Investment Account will offer savers with £50,000 or more 5.75 per cent, down from 6.25 per cent. The same amount at the Halifax will attract 6.35 per cent in a similar account.

German bank takes stake in HFCM to 90%

By PAUL DURMAN

THE German bank that controls the Foreign & Colonial fund management empire is solidifying its position by paying £49.5 million to raise its stake to 90 per cent.

The purchase of another 25 per cent of the shares in Hypo Foreign & Colonial Management (Holdings) partly stems from last year's German merger of HypoBank and Vereinsbank.

John Slater, chairman of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the firm's flagship fund and a 30.5 per cent shareholder in its management company, said HypoVereinsbank "is an enormous organisation now. They did not want to put their worldwide fund management business through a 65 per cent-owned subsidiary. A 90 per cent subsidiary is different."

Foreign & Colonial Invest-

ment Trust (FCIT) will receive £40.6 million to reduce its holding in HFCM to 10 per cent. The other trusts that own small stakes in the management company — F&C Pacific, F&C Smaller Companies and F&C Enterprise — will all sell out entirely.

The price paid for the 25 per cent stake by HypoVereinsbank appears to value HFCM at £198 million. This is substantially less than the £230 million valuation placed on the business when HypoBank raised its stake to 65 per cent in November 1996.

Mr Slater said the discrepancy was explained by the £30 million that HypoBank paid as a premium for control in 1996. He said the underlying value of the management company was broadly unchanged.

Rexam says deal is still on

By ADAM JONES

REXAM, the packaging group, has denied that a £580 million acquisition in Sweden is in danger of falling through.

Rexam wants to buy PLM, which makes cans and glass containers. It already owns 23 per cent of the firm, but admitted that the Swedes are not handing over all the information it wants. Even though its board supports the offer, PLM is not revealing financial projections until the offer becomes unconditional.

Michael Hartnall, Rexam finance director, denied PLM was holding out for another suitor. He said: "They just feel it is not worth to give one shareholder a lot of inside information when the bid hasn't gone unconditional."

Swimming pool disappears overnight

Members of Croydon Municipal Council were today scratching their heads and pondering the disappearance of their once proudly-owned public swimming pool in Selsdon. Bemused at the news, the pool in Selsdon, West Croydon, was reported to have disappeared overnight. The pool was reported to have been there for 50 years. It was built in 1948 and was 5,000 square metres in area. It was built by the council and was a local landmark. It was reported to have disappeared overnight. The pool was reported to have been there for 50 years. It was built in 1948 and was 5,000 square metres in area. It was built by the council and was a local landmark. It was reported to have disappeared overnight.

remains of Croydon's last tin mine which closed at the turn of the century. The only problem was some twenty years ago.

aware of the mine's existence, there having been an extensive fire on the Council's premises.

all records of the pool were lost. The pool was reported to have been there for 50 years. It was built in 1948 and was 5,000 square metres in area. It was built by the council and was a local landmark. It was reported to have disappeared overnight.

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the large area of slate

was found. The pool was reported to have been there for 50 years. It was built in 1948 and was 5,000 square metres in area. It was built by the council and was a local landmark. It was reported to have disappeared overnight.

Kvaerner announces shake-up

Kvaerner, the Anglo-Norwegian engineering group, will unveil plans for a smaller, more efficient firm in March and expects full-year results to be free of additional big writedowns. Kjell Almskog, company president, said yesterday.


He said that 1998 results would roughly match market expectations and that the "new Kvaerner" would focus on raising earnings while cutting risks. It will close or sell unprofitable divisions after over-expansion and a downturn in Asian markets. "It will take a long time — two, three, perhaps four years — before we are a first class international company," he said.

Hays buys Axis

Hays, the business services group, has bought Axis Resources Holdings, a provider of IT outsourcing services, for an initial £35.3 million. Further payments of up to £5 million may be made depending on the profits Axis makes between completion and June 30, 2001. Of the purchase price, £12 million went to paying off debt. The total order book of Axis is £36 million. In the 18 months to October 31, Axis made operating profits of £3.1 million on turnover of £26.1 million.

China sees growth

China's economy grew by 7.8 per cent this year, boosted by massive state spending on public works, according to official figures yesterday. With GDP at 7.97 trillion yuan (£580 billion), growth was just off the Government's target of 8 per cent. It was, however, down from the 8.8 per cent achieved in 1997. Economists said the figures appeared too good to be true.

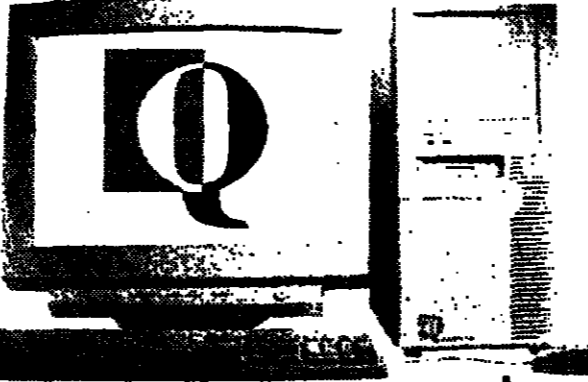


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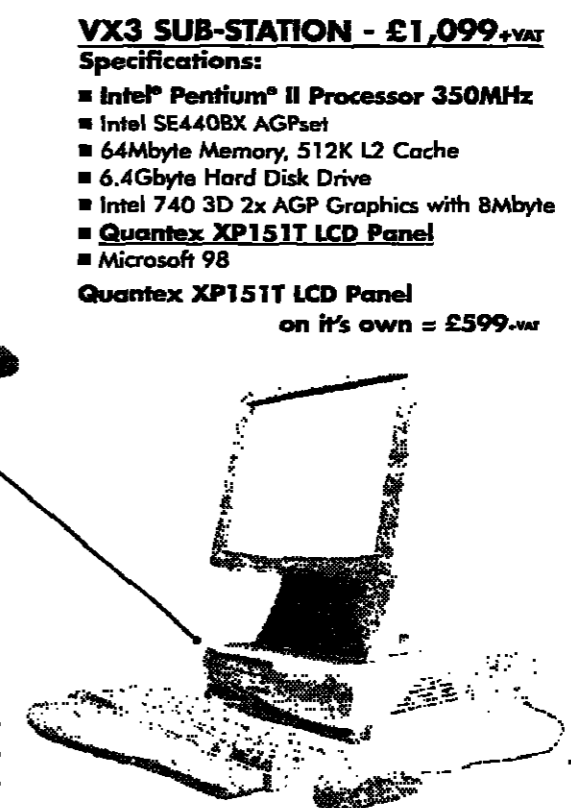


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Cinderella misses the euro ball

Upwards of 30,000 of us will have the perfect excuse to avoid the alcoholic rituals of New Year's Eve tonight. Workers in financial markets in London and Scotland will have to spend a long weekend replacing 11 European currencies with the euro. In the City, it is the biggest technical challenge for 12 years.

The rest of us are like Cinderella missing the ball, except that we were invited but chose to give it a miss. The worst of it is that Cinderella has nowhere else to go. We can only press our faces to the glass to glimpse the exciting things other Europeans are getting up to.

Our response to the single currency has been entirely negative. We sulk in our tent, twiddling our thumbs. We wish the enterprise well but secretly hope it will be a fiasco, making us wise to stay away.

The main parties' policies, though emotionally at odds, occupy a narrow segment in the spectrum. The Government would like to join the currency union at some time in the future, if and when the time is right. The Opposition sug-

gests that we should not join for at least seven years.

There are genuine economic objections to a single currency. The first is just London versus the North East writ large. A single interest rate will not be ideal for all euroland's regions. Rates will surely be set to suit the Rhineland, Ile de France and Benelux countries, the Home Counties of Europe.

The treaty lacks simple ways to suspend national budget deficit limits, which will swiftly come under strain come the next economic downturn. There is no attempt to align jobs taxes. So member states with much higher levies than ours can devalue within the single currency by cutting them. Such issues should have been dealt with in the Maastricht treaty six years ago.

Thanks to our abysmal diplomacy, any UK Government is left with a quandary. Instead of bruising our way to an acceptable euro or vetoing monetary union at EU level, we conceded a botched euro, then opted out.

The main objection to monetary union has always been democratic. A single currency run with little accountability erodes democratic choice. Few central bankers are as skillful as America's Alan Greenspan. The euro must lead to taxes being harmonised, downwards by political fiat. For continentalists, it means no more Franco or Ulbricht. For us, it appears to mean no more Afiesse, Thatcher or even Wilson.

By virtue of location, the UK gains less from a single currency, like other cuts in barriers, than small member states or those with long borders on main trade routes. No wonder objections loom larger here. But the euro's arrival should jog us into making decisions. Eco-

nomics and monetary union is not an event but a dynamic process. Soon, financial markets will become one. National banks, insurance companies, fund managers or stock exchanges, will become merely regional, even allowing for different languages. Markets for the siting, servicing, supply and finance of corporations will soon fol-



low. When the euro becomes a retail currency three years hence, the pace of change will accelerate.

In or out, the impact of the euro on British manufacturing, financial services and farming will be huge. These key industries will be left behind then probably asked to catch up when it is too late.

Volvo, a key manufacturer in Sweden, another refusenik, complains bitterly of the vast sums it may lose trying to keep up with the euro-Joneses. Not knowing what its costs will be in euros. How will firms like this stand in the business consolidation that the euro is bound to bring?

Back home, the most conspicuous early loser is the City of London. For all the brave talk, the financial centre of gravity is shifting away from us, in money markets, bond finance, stocks and shares and derivatives. The euro has given

en a key weapon to our rivals. The City is so strong that it can remain Europe's top financial centre, but it will have to defend its territory while others expand with new business. Our banks and insurers, like car makers and other manufacturers before them, are likely to become victims of European restructuring rather than its instigators.

Business might find this easier to bear if opponents of monetary union had some positive alternative strategy. Even an exchange rate policy would be a start.

Gordon Brown promises a plan in the new year to prepare business to join the euro, should the government ever decide that is economically expedient, and more importantly a vote-winner. The leaks are alarming. One paper envisaged an eight-month process once a decision was made, as though monetary union was just a techni-

cal process like the one City folk will conduct over the weekend.

Waiting has some benefits. Let the other guys cope with the central bankers' strong euro strategy and their attempts to define European financial conditions.

After our disastrous timing on joining the exchange-rate mechanism eight years ago, however, there is no reason to think that the UK could skip a process that has taken other countries at least six years and is still far from perfect. If the UK is to be ready to join the euro after a referendum, Mr Brown needs to put sterling back in the wide hands of the ERM as soon as our short-term interest rates are within half a point of the euro's and change the Bank of England's instructions, so as to keep the exchange rate within narrow bands. As others have learnt at huge cost, only strict currency or exchange rate alignment will cause economies to converge.

If monetary union is no more than an aspiration for Labour, as it is a bogey for Tories, business must fear the worst.

Dewhurst survives disaster to mount meat counter offensive

Jason Nissé reports on the resurgence of the chain of high street butcher's shops

Don't tell Graham Heasman your hard luck story. The chief executive of Dewhurst, the high street butcher's chain, has a few of his own. In the three-and-a-half years since he led the management buyout of the business from the ashes of Union International, the meat giant that went into receivership in March 1995, Dewhurst has survived not one, but two, food health scares. It has also seen concerted attempts by the supermarkets to take away its business and is now gearing up for an economic downturn.

Yet despite all of this, Dewhurst is making its first profits since the mid-1980s and is seeing sales growth of 3 per cent a year. That might not seem a great feat, but meat prices have fallen by an average of 12 per cent in the past year, so this means volume growth of 15 per cent in its 213 shops.

Only 213? This is the chain that once dominated the high street. When Heasman became chief executive of the company in 1992, it had 1,300 stores. By the time Union International went into receivership, this was down to 430 thanks to an aggressive retrenchment programme.

The receivership allowed Dewhurst to walk away from a whole load of leases and shrink to a size that might make it viable once again.

The story of Dewhurst is one that goes to the heart of the problems at Union International, the giant meat supply group created by the Vestey family. The organisation had its roots in the meat importing business created by William Vestey in Liverpool in 1870.

The empire grew on the back of the increasing affluence of the British working and middle classes, which enabled them to buy meat more often than they had in the past, and the improved transportation technology, which allowed chilled meat to be brought from as far away as Argentina and New Zealand.

At one time this organisation dominated the British meat supply. The company not only owned Dewhurst but also Weddell, the UK's largest

meat wholesaler, and British Beef, the UK's largest abattoir chain as well as large tracts of farming land in Australia. Vestey was famous for his hard work, frugality and secrecy, so much so that family members were surprised to find cheques for £250,000 sent to them on their 18th birthdays. The empire he created made the family worth more than £2 billion.

However, by the 1990s the empire was running into trouble. Accusations about the low amount of tax that the Vestey family paid on their earnings led one family member to comment: "We are all tax avoiders, aren't we?" Then Lord Vestey's cousin, Michael Telling, shot his wife after finding her in bed with another woman. Finally the empire hit financial trouble, after ill-advised diversification into insurance and pharmaceuticals.

Teddy Robinson, the former headman to Tony Rowland at Lorbio, was brought in to rescue the group in 1991. But though he succeeded in selling many of the empire's peripheral assets, he fell out with Lord "Sam" and Edmund Vestey, who headed the family's interests, and themselves had been squabbling with Tim Vestey, the heir apparent. Amid all of this, Lloyd's Bank called in the receivers, leaving Robinson furious. He has now turned up as chief executive of another troubled food company, Albert Heijn.

Heasman was near to the centre of all of this. Brought in as personnel director of Weddell, he moved across the group at a time when it was constantly retrenching. When he took over as chief executive of Dewhurst from Geoff Steer in 1992, his brief was to cut back the chain in any way possible. "We were retreating and retreating," Heasman remembers. "We were closing things all the time."

After the collapse of Union, Heasman set about trying to organise a management buyout. The tale he had to tell to potential investors was not encouraging, given that Dewhurst was a business that had lost more than 80 per cent of its market share over the previous decade, was riddled with



Joint venture: Graham Heasman and management colleagues arranged the buyout of Dewhurst

corruption and had lost much of its reputation with consumers. "Our position in the marketplace was being eroded," said Heasman. "On one hand there is the hijou butcher that sells lattice pies and fine wine and on the other side there are the supermarkets. But we have always been a mass market butcher with stores that need to do £10,000 a week and

ideally do £20,000." The company was in receivership for five months before he persuaded Foreign & Colonial to put up £13 million in a deal that allowed him to cherry-pick the profitable shops.

Initially, all went well. The deal was completed on August 20, 1995, and in the first six months sales were up nearly

20 per cent. Heasman decided to market prices more aggressively, making the Dewhurst stores look less like traditional butchers and more like branches of Dixons, with large point of sale promotions. He made it clear that he would not tolerate any pilfering and led by example: if he visited a shop and ate a pork pie, he would pay for it there and then. Margins

have improved from 29 per cent of sales to 38 per cent.

But on March 20, 1996, disaster struck. Stephen Dorrell, then the Health Secretary, stood up in the House of Commons and announced that there was a problem with BSE and beef.

Overnight the market collapsed. Not only were people not buying beef but also, as beef prices tend to dictate the prices of less expensive meat, there was massive price deflation. Fortunately, Dewhurst had retrenched enough to keep itself profitable, but worse was to come.

In September 1996 there was an outbreak of e-coli 157, the life threatening food bug, in meat supplied by a butcher in Scotland. The next March, Granada TV's *World In Action* carried out an investigation into hygiene standards at high street butcher's shops, finding workers wiping knives on their trousers and other breaches of hygiene rules.

Though none of these problems were found at Dewhurst shops, the chain was hit harder than anyone else, losing 10 per cent of sales almost immediately. Customers flocked to the supermarkets which, though they may not be experts in meat, have a strong reputation for hygiene.

Heasman decided to go on the offensive. He made hygiene a priority, not that he had to raise standards so much as promote the standards that the chain already had. He placed the hygiene training notice to staff in a location where all customers could see it. He made sure the staff took time to talk to customers about the meat they might be buying.

Gradually, Dewhurst has been able to claw back customers. Heasman reckons the new laws about licensing butcher's shops will help Dewhurst by forcing some of the cowboys in the high street out of business. Though he realises that the supermarkets will still dominate meat sales, taking 75 per cent of revenues, this leaves a market worth £2 billion a year. Currently, Dewhurst has sales of only £50 million a year.

"This is a niche business, but it is a good niche," said Heasman. Dewhurst may not be the dominant player that it once was, but it is still around. Which given recent events is a result.

Music chiefs take belated action to halt Rio's advance

Most music industry executives were probably more concerned about whether the Spice Girls or Cher would make it to No 1 this Christmas than what was going on down at their local PC World.

Yet in the week running up to Christmas, PC World made a decision that could eventually pose a serious threat to the future of the music industry: it became the first large electrical retail chain to stock a small Walkman-style device called the Rio, manufactured by a US company called Diamond Multimedia.

The Rio is one of a growing number of devices that digitally record music that has been downloaded directly from the Internet. There is, obviously, a world of difference between this and buying CDs over the Internet from a music retail

chain such as HMV, Virgin or Music. Boulevard, and being sent them in the post.

Diamond Multimedia's product has no moving parts, and music can be recorded at near CD-quality from a PC. The file format used by the Rio, called MP3, has already been criticised for spreading high-quality, pirated music around the world, without generating any income for artists or record companies.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the trade association for the music industry in the US, recently failed to get an injunction to prevent the Rio being sold in US stores. The RIAA argues that most MP3 files contain illegally copied music, with many fans downloading their favourite tracks free of charge.

It is estimated that there are already 80,000 illegal MP3 files — containing songs by artists such as George Michael and U2 — being circulated on the Internet.

In spite of concern over the high price of CDs, and the vast salaries of many music industry executives, it is widely recognised that a collapse in the revenues of record companies could be disastrous for the future of recorded music. Without money to invest in, and market, new acts, the charts would become very stale indeed.

prompted the heads of the world's five largest record companies — Sony, Warner, Universal, EMI and Bertelsmann — to take action. Last week they met in New York to announce their solution to the problem: a project called the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI).

This initiative aims to produce a rival file format to MP3, which will make it much more difficult to distribute pirated music over the Internet. Music companies will work with organisations such as IBM, Microsoft and AT&T to produce the software, which, it is hoped, will then be adopted by the entire industry.

Music executives hope that the SDMI will produce industry-wide specifications for encryption (scrambling music files so they cannot be intercepted as they travel across the Internet), and watermarking (giving all music an electronic tag to show that they have not been illegally copied).

Having ignored the Internet for so long, however, many technology experts say that music companies have no one to blame but themselves for the proliferation of MP3 files. And, given the speed at which new technology becomes established, the odds against the RIAA succeeding in its bid to engineer a new kind of electronic distribution mechanism for music files are increasing.

MOBILE phone users will soon be able to switch between rival networks without having to change their phone number, following a ruling yesterday by Ofcom, the industry regulator. The new rule, which will come into effect tomorrow, will heighten competition in the mobile phone industry, and could result in many customers changing networks more regularly.

THE latest addition to America's growing Internet retail industry is BabyCentre, a private company set up with \$10 million (£6 million) of start-up funding. The company, based in San Francisco, sells toys, clothes, nappies and baby bottles, all of which can be delivered to customers' front doors.



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MARTIN WALLER

Dirty washing

HOWARD DAVIES and the Financial Services Authority are determined to make an example of someone involved in money laundering, claims Alistair Walters, an associate at DIBb Lupton Alsop, the solicitors. The FSA's hand will be strengthened in the new year by enhanced legal powers, he says in an interview with

Financial World, magazine of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

Unfortunately, US experience from the biggest anti-money laundering operation ever launched suggests that it may not be the guilty who will suffer, Walters says.

Operation Casablanca in 1997 uncovered \$97 million in drug proceeds. However, in the excitement of the chase, lurid allegations were made about the Venezuelan bank that was helping the US Justice Department.

The untrue allegations stuck, says Walters, and the bank lost the goodwill of many long-standing and honest clients. "From a public relations perspective, it was a banker's nightmare of epic proportions."

OPPOSITION to the weekend celebrations from the smallest country taking part, the Vatican. It seems the Pope has long worried about the effects of globalisation. Now an unnamed article in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican mouthpiece, has cautioned: "The optimism accompanying the new-born euro is... premature at best."

Should we pit you down as a Euro-sceptic then, Your Holiness?



Numbers game

STAFF at Nomura London office were baffled by reports of 650 job cuts at the bank's London and New York operations next year, so ensuring Nomura's 2,300 employees in Europe have a memorable end to 1998. "We don't know where the figure has come from," admitted a Nomura spokeswoman.

In October the big cheques in Tokyo said they would need to cut costs by 20 per cent. Yesterday, as Japan went off for a rare two-day holiday, someone at Nomura gave an interview to the respected *Nihon Keizai Shinbun*

newspaper. This does not appear to have contained the magic figure of 650 but may have repeated mention of the cost cuts.

Nomura employs almost 3,500 people in Europe and the US, 20 per cent of which would be about 650. No one in London knows who came up with the calculation and with head office closed, no one could check. What is certain is that, so far, about 50 people here have lost their jobs, and more will go in the new year.

Police call

THE police in the City of London have said they will provide 24-hour cover over the euro weekend. "We are expecting many more people to be around over that weekend than usual," said Superintendent John Kitchen, declining to be more specific about the force's plans.

But I hear the stepped-up presence has come at the direct request of the large City institutions, which have also put their own private security arrangements in place. The concern is that the attention of the world will be focused on London, the main trading centre for the euro.

Given the financial industry in London has twice been the victim of terrorist attack, such caution seems sensible. But it is probably not a good time to leave your car parked carelessly by the side of the road.

THERE is a widespread and persistent rumour that one big French bank has seriously underestimated the amount of work needed to prepare for the euro, and that this will become obvious once the time comes to settle deals done in early trading. This would severely shake confidence in the euro. But the rumour, as it reached me, goes further. The French actually want early trading to be marked by such a glitch, because this would reflect badly on London and shift more trading on to the Continent, that is, Paris. It sounds loopy paranoid. But in case there is any truth in it, you heard it from me first.

Nose job

I leave you to celebrate the new year with the tale of Kevin Cole, of Carlisle, New Mexico, whose sporting achievement has made it into the *Guinness Book of Records*.

His sport? Blowing spaghetti out of his nose. I will spare you the details, but his seven-inch effort has beaten the previous world record holder by two inches. Cole was jubilant. "It's not very often that Carlisle gets put on the map like this," he said.

Indeed not. Happy new year.



Howard Davies: determined to crack down on money laundering

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name and price per unit. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

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Shares close off their lows

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High	Low	Close	Change	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
... [Detailed list of stocks in this sector] ...				
BANKS				
... [Detailed list of banks] ...				
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
... [Detailed list of food manufacturers] ...				
LEISURE & HOTELS				
... [Detailed list of leisure and hotels] ...				
MINING				
... [Detailed list of mining companies] ...				
PROPERTY				
... [Detailed list of property companies] ...				
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
... [Detailed list of telecom companies] ...				
TRANSPORT				
... [Detailed list of transport companies] ...				
WATER				
... [Detailed list of water companies] ...				
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
... [Detailed list of alternative investment market] ...				
SUPPORT SERVICES				
... [Detailed list of support services] ...				

High	Low	Close	Change	PE
DIWERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
... [Detailed list of diversified industrial companies] ...				
ELECTRICITY				
... [Detailed list of electricity companies] ...				
ELECTRONIC & ELECT				
... [Detailed list of electronic and electrical companies] ...				
HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT				
... [Detailed list of household goods and textile companies] ...				
INSURANCE				
... [Detailed list of insurance companies] ...				
INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
... [Detailed list of investment trusts] ...				
ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
... [Detailed list of engineering and vehicle companies] ...				

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High	Low	Close	Change	PE
SHORTS (under 5 years)				
... [Detailed list of short-term instruments] ...				
LONGS (over 15 years)				
... [Detailed list of long-term instruments] ...				
UNDATED				
... [Detailed list of undated instruments] ...				
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%)				
... [Detailed list of index-linked instruments] ...				

High	Low	Close	Change	PE
OTHER FINANCIAL				
... [Detailed list of other financial companies] ...				
PHARMACEUTICALS				
... [Detailed list of pharmaceutical companies] ...				
RETAILERS, FOOD				
... [Detailed list of food retailers] ...				
RETAILERS, GENERAL				
... [Detailed list of general retailers] ...				

High	Low	Close	Change	PE
PRINTING & PAPER				
... [Detailed list of printing and paper companies] ...				
MEDIA				
... [Detailed list of media companies] ...				
RETAILERS, GENERAL				
... [Detailed list of general retailers] ...				
RETAILERS, FOOD				
... [Detailed list of food retailers] ...				
WATER				
... [Detailed list of water companies] ...				
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
... [Detailed list of alternative investment market] ...				
SUPPORT SERVICES				
... [Detailed list of support services] ...				

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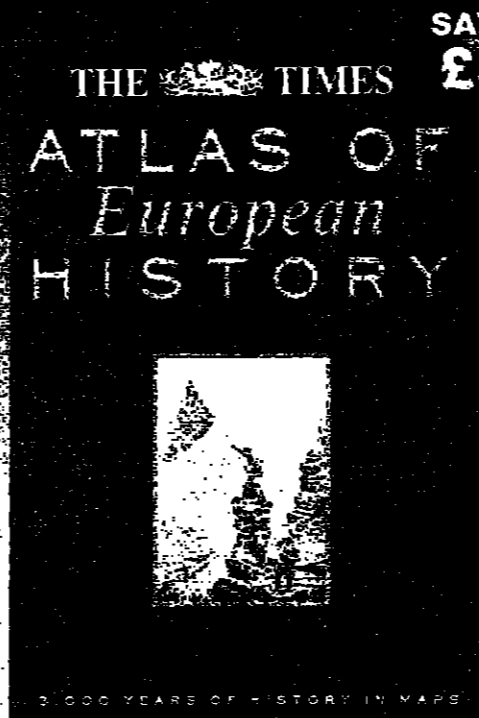
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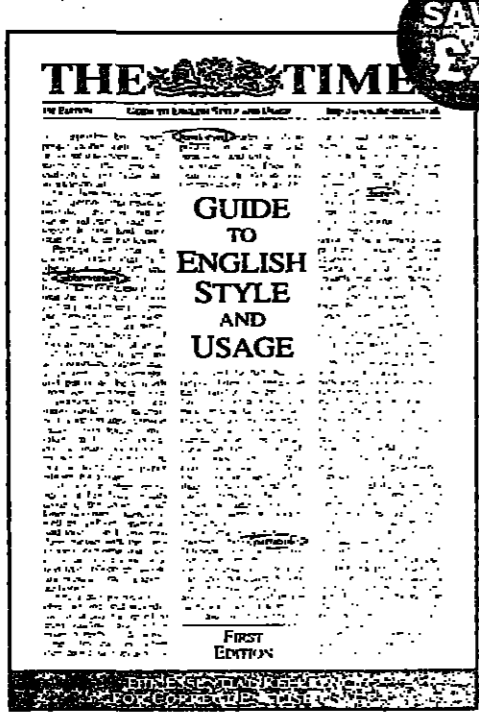
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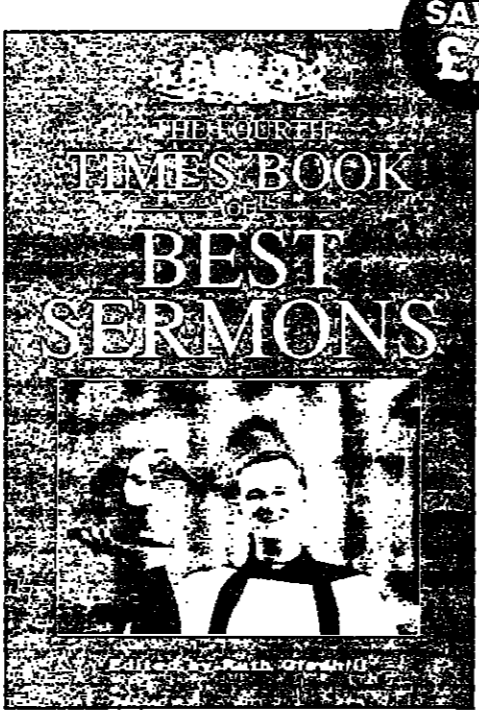
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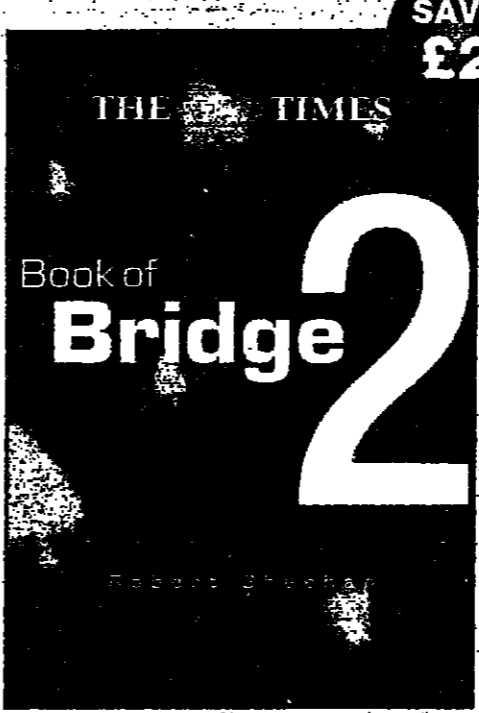
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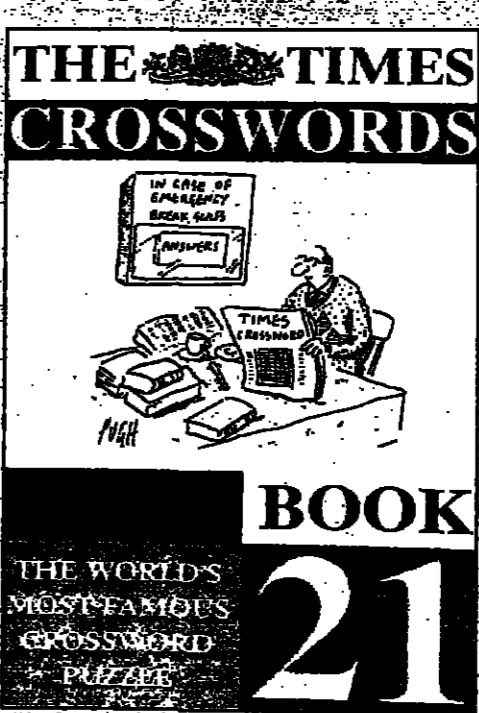
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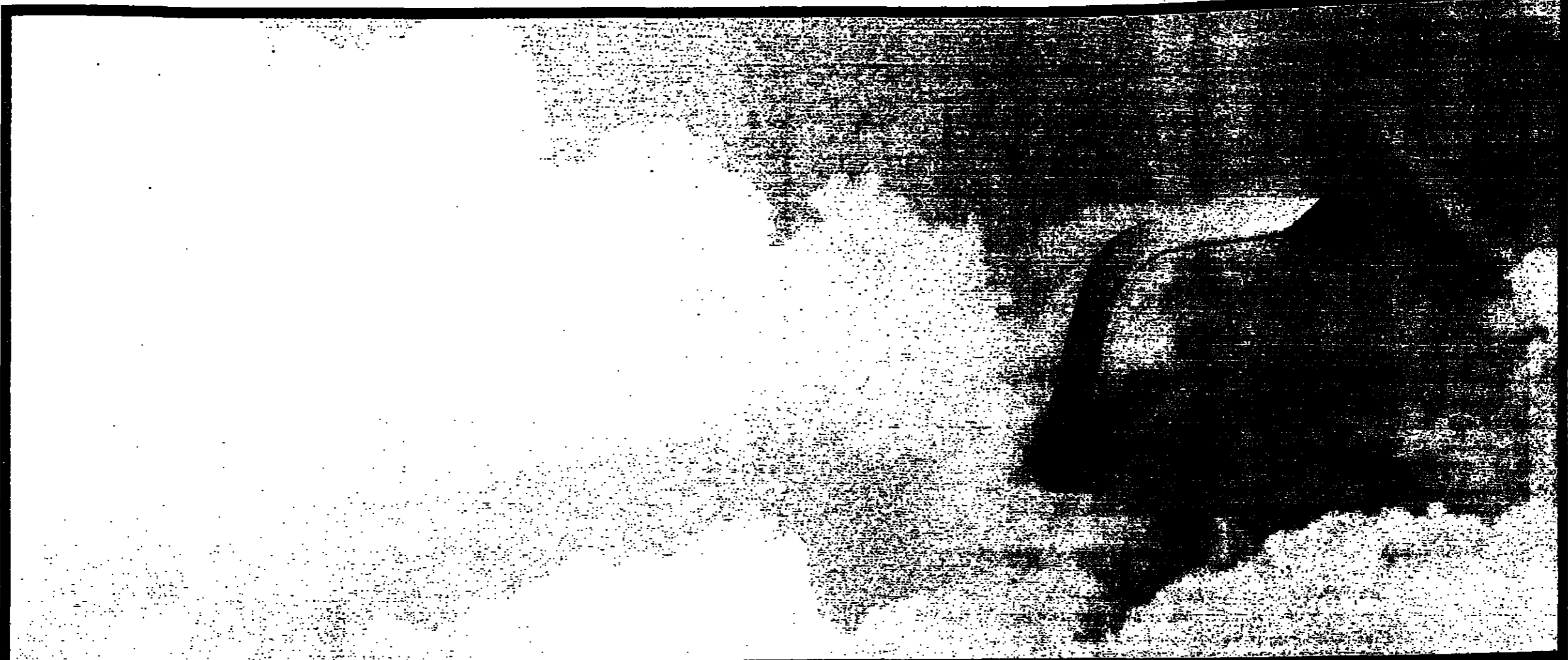
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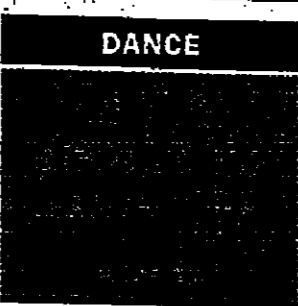
Income is currently about £1m a year, of which 80% is raised from the public, but demand for the hospice's palliative care services is growing and as a result one of the challenges of the job is to increase the trust's income substantially through fund raising so as to expand the facilities.

The Chief Executive is accountable to the Council of Trustees, reporting to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, who acts for the Trustees. The organisation employs forty people, mainly in the hospice, but also in administration and fund raising including three charity shops and a lottery.

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THE TIMES ARTS

UNsung HEROES
Scandals in the Cave of the Golden Calf
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NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown sees Patrick Stewart and crew baldly go into familiar territory in *Star Trek: Insurrection*

Set your phrases to mildly stun

Metaphoric radiation. Transport inhibitor. Shield harmonics. Ah yes, there is nothing like a *Star Trek* movie for reminding audiences about the beauties of the English language. But if some of the dialogue blocks up our ears in *Star Trek: Insurrection*, it is no fault of the actors. They know their way backwards through this talk. *Insurrection* is the ninth in the film series and the third to feature the Next Generation troupe, operating under the bald dome and crisp command of Patrick Stewart's Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

Star Trek: Insurrection
Empire, PG, 100 mins
Lightly likable adventure

The Acid House
Warner West End
18, 112 mins
Hell on earth from the pen of Irvine Welsh

Sitcom
Curzon Sola
18, 85 mins
Mild follies of the French bourgeoisie



Heard the one about the android, the 300-year-old woman and the starship commander in a boat? Brent Spiner, Donna Murphy and Patrick Stewart splash out in *Star Trek: Insurrection*

In some ways this adventure is minor fare. Lacking the high drama of its immediate predecessor, *Star Trek: First Contact*, when the *Enterprise* crew battled those troublesome villains, the Borgs. This in itself proves no great flaw: it merely points up the extent to which *Star Trek* movies have spun off into an eccentric orbit all their own. Most Hollywood sequels belabour a plot we have all seen before with ever more elaborate special effects: in theory at least, a *Star Trek* movie, with its built-in army of dedicated fans, can dare to be different.

A film meant for Trekkies can also risk modifying, or even abandoning, the gender stereotypes common to many action adventures. Here are no pillars of male testosterone, or hunky guys struggling to kick aliens in the neatest regions. Along the way, Picard gets to practise the mambo and duet with his android, Lieutenant Commander Data, in a number from *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The heroine, moreover, is at least 300 years old, although she does look considerably younger.

As with *First Contact*, actor Jonathan Prakes doubles up as Commander Riker and the film's director, and he launches things with a bang. Data (Brent Spiner) is running amok on a minor planet, firing weapons and taking hostage a team conducting a cultural survey of the peaceful Ba'ku race, who like blowing robes, the joys of wine and, probably, Sino and Garfunkel. Picard beams down to investigate and finds dirty work afoot: the cultural survey is only a front for an intergalactic scheme to oust the Ba'ku from their home and bask in the planet's rejuvenating radiation.

impenetrable enough to make the film as easy on the ears to any audience south of the border as Romanian folk drama. For me, full comprehension only dawned when two middle-class English characters, played by Martin Chunes and Gemma Redgrave, were pitched into the last tale, a comic fantasy in which Ewen Bremner's acid-head finds himself changing personalities with a newborn baby.

This is subjective criticism, of course. I am English and middle-class, and have as much personal experience of chemical substances and the culture around them as I have of the surface of the moon. But there is more to my problems with *The Acid House* than a fear and dislike of the characters' habits. The film proceeds at full tilt from first frame to last, so cocksure about its appeal that it never feels bored about guiding an audience slowly but surely into its chosen world. This is arrogance; it is also bad film-making.

for it lets scenes congeal into indigestible lumps, and that way boredom lies. Of the other stories, the first features Stephen McCole as a put-upon laddie whose day of torment reaches its climax when God, encountered in a bar, turns him into a fly. The second, particularly grim viewing, tells of easy-going Johnny (Kevin McKidd), pushed around by the upstairs brute who helps himself to his wife and his electricity.

But it does not do to be too snuffy. What other Christmas film manages to encompass an attempted suicide, sexual orgies, a spot of sadomasochism and a white rat? The rat, in fact, is the key to the whole affair. Once father brings the rat home after work, nothing in the mansion — the film's sole location — is ever the same again. Hidden sexual proclivities start to surface. The son pronounces himself gay. The daughter throws herself out of a window. Mother flirts with son. Daughter, now a paraplegic, flirts with father. In time the steady tread of mounting madness becomes one of the film's drawbacks. *Sitcom* is built like a machine, and once you realise how the machine works and where it is headed, some of the audience interest dissipates. It would also help if the film's goals were wider. Ozon's shorts coupled death and sex and played with gender in quite provocative ways, but it is hardly a shocking revelation to find that a bourgeois mansion is a temple of sexual repression.

Still, the ensemble cast remain a constant pleasure as they drift towards anarchy with French poise and savoir faire. Evelyn Dandry is particularly delightful as the bemused mother, as is Francois Marthouret, the laid-back, rat-stroking father. There are many worse ways to start the new year than watching *Sitcom*. Have a good one, and thank you for having me.

Dark key to a musical genius

AMADEUS
Warner DVD, PG, 1984
IN THIS DVD version, you have the choice of listening to the soundtrack purged of everything but Mozart (and the lesser music of Salieri). Since this also entails listening to lots of tall silence, where Peter Shaffer's dialogue should be, this special feature cannot be recommended. Best to watch the film whole. That way, you can marvel at the dark cunning of F. Murray Abraham's Salieri, groan at the brattishness of Tom Hulce's Mozart, and watch Milos Forman's Oscar-laden film surmount its faults to become a compelling and darkly comic story of glorious music.

THE DAYTRIPPERS
Fox Pathé, 15, 1996
LIKEABLE, low-budget American movie from writer-director Greg Mottola, about a Long Island housewife (Hope Davis) who drives into Manhattan with assorted family members to confront her erring husband at work. Once they hit the Big Apple, misfortunes multiply and family togetherness fades fast. Time has lent added lustre to the excellent ensemble cast, which includes indie movie favourite Parker Posey, Liev Schreiber, Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott.

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
Alliance, 12, 1997
SOMEWHERE behind Quasimodo's crab-like movements and hideous make-up lies the face of actor Mandy Patinkin. But others thrust themselves forward for our attention: like the Esmeralda of Salma Hayek, wriggling her physical attributes in her opening dance; and Richard Harris's Frollo, so tormented by lust for the gypsy girl that he punishes himself with a vigorous whipping. This TV movie, made chiefly in Hungary, is not the novel's most distinguished screen version, though it goes through the motions with a flourish. Peter Medak, who fled Hungary after the 1956 uprising, directed.

TOUCH
Fox Pathé, 15, 1997
ELMOR LEONARD wrote his novel as a wry, sensitive film comedy; Paul Schrader's film adaptation never quite knows what tone to adopt, but gives plenty of scope for fine performances. Skeets Ulrich is

One in the eyes for Uncle Sam?

Carol Allen on the ways in which European film-makers are challenging Hollywood

France's film industry is in crisis. Film-makers are rising up, box-office receipts in hand, and demanding the unthinkable — to make English-language films that can compete with Hollywood's heavyweights. But what has brought things to this once-unthinkable pass in a nation whose film-makers have, over the decades, led for others to follow?

The French have traditionally been the most militant and successful at protecting their own cinema industry, through such measures as a tax on all cinema admissions which goes into a fund to support French production, and laws which limit investment by American majors to 20 per cent in any one project and give the director final cut.



Italy's *Il Postino* set the commercial benchmark for foreign-language films

houses. "My film is in Danish and is Danish financed," Vinterberg says. "But the like it in France and it's been sold to 28 countries."

The most difficult market in Europe for a non-English language film is Britain. In France foreign-language films are shown with subtitles for the cinephiles and dubbed for general audiences. In Italy and Germany dubbing is almost universal. The dubbed versions of *The Full Monty*, for example, reached mass audiences throughout Europe.

In Britain the audience for foreign-language films is loyal but small. European film-lovers here are largely serviced by the specialist distributors such as Artificial Eye, Gals, Pathé and Alliance. Occasionally such films will be taken up by a major distributor: Roberto Benigni's *La Vita è Bella*, which won Best Film and Best Actor prizes at the European Film Awards held recently in London, is being released by Buena Vista on February 12. It will have a larger distribution than most foreign-language films, but is unlikely to show up in your local multiplex.

The most successful foreign-language film ever was *Il Postino*, made in Italian and directed by Britain's Michael Radford. Conceived primarily for its own domestic market with an Italian star, the late Massimo Troisi, it has made \$100 million worldwide. It was a film which satisfied both American and European criteria. "I think it appealed because it was a very touching movie," says Radford. "It made people laugh and it made them cry so they felt satisfied emotionally as they came out of the cinema. But it also satisfied people intellectually, because it was a film about a man who discovers himself through poetry, which is quite a rarefied subject."

While one success does not mean the beginning of worldwide European cultural dominance, it does make a dent in the resistance to foreign-language movies, Radford says. "A lot of filmgoing is about habit. When I first started making films, there was no market for British films. But in the last 15 years a habit has grown up and now British comedies are very popular worldwide. In the same way, every time you get a foreign-language movie that breaks through and becomes a movie with mass appeal, a habit gets formed and people think, 'Let's go and see an Italian movie,' say."

Radford's current project, *The Swedish Cavalier*, is about the Baltic War between Sweden and Russia. With a French producer, a Russian star and finance from France, Germany and Britain, it will be made in English and shot in Poland. It is a far cry however, he insists, from the infamous "Euro-puddings" of the 1980s. "What's happening is that we're sharing resources," he explains.

"The Germans, for example, are no longer saying, 'You have to make the film in Germany with ten German actors in it.' The British will now put up money for a French movie and the French for an Italian movie. There's a sense of, 'if this is a good movie we would all like to be involved in it' and that is quite something."

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FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

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ARTS

MUSIC Rampant woodwind

Happy in Constable country



Country life: Sarah Wildor, making an irresistibly lovely debut as Lise, and Bruce Sansom, endearing as farmer Colas, in the Royal Ballet's La Fille mal gardée

Frederick Ashton never made a happier ballet than La Fille mal gardée. It was, he said, his tribute to nature. Inspired by reading Dorothy Wordsworth's journals, he was "swept by a longing for the country of the late 18th and early 19th century: the country of today seems a poor noisy 'thing by comparison'.

DANCE

La Fille mal gardée Festival Hall

Dauberval's 1789 French original, but there is little French about Ashton's 1960 bucolic comedy for the Royal Ballet. The setting is pure Constable country, a serene enchanted landscape where maidens and farmers go about their agricultural business with a contented heart.

score, "freely adapted and arranged by John Lanchbery from the 1828 Herold version". It is peppy, dancy and - at times - romantically ecstatic. It was conducted on opening night by Lanchbery himself, and both he and the Royal Opera House Orchestra found their spirits buoyed by the music's innate good nature.

Sarah Wildor was making her debut as Lise on Tuesday. Headstrong and spunky, her Lise was also irresistibly lovely and coquettish. Her trime was beautifully focused, winsome and eloquent; her dancing (especially in the upper body) was filled with charm and sparkle, the final duet with Colas giving her time to stretch into those polished decorative phrases she loves.

Jonathan Howells brought a sense of bewilderment and melancholy to Alain, the rich simpleton who would wed Lise if his father and her mother had their way. He enjoyed a stirring little scene when David Drew's port-soaked Thomas, Alain's prosperous vineyard-owner father, attempted to console his lovelorn son.

overt comedy of a man in drag and the subtle comedy of a mother trying to get the better of her daughter. His dog dance was nimble, and his dainty feminine airs were cause for amusement. But altogether it was a portrayal too knowing, too arch.

DEBRA CRAINE

Let down at length

Madama Butterfly Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sitting on the knees of Sharpless, the hapless American Consul, three-year-old B.F. Pinkerton junior could hardly suppress a yawn. And he wasn't the only one. However disarming the cameo performance of young Thomas Dodgson-Gates as Butterfly's son, however sophisticated the presence of Irene Cerboncini as his mother, however lavish Pamela Hayward's costumes, English Festival Opera's Madama Butterfly feels like a very long evening.

to engage with the second-by-second twists and turns of event and emotion? Why choose a work whose performing conditions demand a horribly exposed chamber-orchestra reduction of the score when the band, conducted by Simon Gray, is far from a virtuoso line-up?

HILARY FINCH

Blowing up a storm

CONCERT

Few instrumental groupings expose the second rate more mercilessly than the wind band. The heterogeneity of timbres, together with the lack of binding strings, create pitfalls for performers and composers alike. Happily London Winds, directed by clarinettist Michael Collins, boasts some of the country's finest wind players, and they celebrated their tenth anniversary on Tuesday with three works that displayed total mastery of the genre.

Richard Strauss's Sonatina No 2 in E flat conjures a sound-world of orchestral richness with just 16 winds, while Dvorak's Wind Serenade in D Minor, Op 44, generates gusts of bucolic fresh air, and Mozart's Gran Partita in B-flat, K361, cultivates fine blends with an ensemble expanded from the classical octet.

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London's bold cave woman

UNSUNG HEROES: In the second of our series, Richard Cork pays tribute to Frida Strindberg and her infamous Cave of the Golden Calf

From the moment it opened in June 1912, the Cabaret Theatre Club was hailed for the adventurous paintings and sculpture galvanising its principal arena, the Cave of the Golden Calf. Astounded visitors to London's first "artists' cabaret" in a warehouse basement off Regent Street were bombarded by incendiary images on every side. The abrasive new art was here unleashed in an overheated cavern brazenly devoted to the delights of sensual abandon.

Frida Uhl Strindberg, who founded the club, was an exuberant Austrian writer once married to the playwright August Strindberg. Maddening, sexually ravenous, unreliable yet magnificently fearless, she issued an outspoken manifesto trumpeting her bold and emancipated aims: "We want a place given up to gaiety, to a gaily stimulating thought, rather than crushing it. We want a gaiety that does not have to count with midnight. We want surroundings, which after the reality of daily life, reveal the reality of the unreal."

Only someone as headlong and cosmopolitan as Madame Strindberg could have realised such a vision in London. Excited by precedents in continental Europe, where artistic experiment and the cabaret tradition were closely linked, she echoed in the Golden Calf's title their fondness for giving clubs the names of animals — a cat, rabbit or bat. And the location she discovered for her Cave was as subterranean as the space occupied by Josef Hoffmann's innovative Kabarett Fledermaus in Vienna, or the French winecellars where the word "cabaret" had originated in centres for informal dance, singing and circus acts.

Strindberg wanted the performances on her cabaret stage to be above all "spontaneous and flexible". Her choice of setting, in an obscure cul-de-sac called Heddon Street, was defiant and subversive, and her temperament was ideally suited to launching such enterprises with the maximum bravura. Her turbulent early marriage, to the playwright whose surname she always retained, had left her with an appetite for outrageous theatricality.

Augustus John, then at the zenith of his own notoriety, found himself pursued by this Amazonian woman. Attracted at first, he was soon irritated by her relentless advances and an alarming tendency to threaten suicide with plentiful doses of veronal and Bovril. Eventually, John admitted that "the sight of Madame Strindberg bearing down on me in an open taxi-cab, a smile of greeting on her face, shaded with a hat turned up behind

and bearing a luxurious outcrop of sweetpeas — this sight, I confess, unnerved me." John must have been relieved to discover that Strindberg, whom he described as a "walking hell-bitch of the Western World", had no intention of crushing his services for the Cave's decoration. She turned instead to five of the most promising young painters and sculptors in London. Spencer Gore, then at the most audacious point in his sadly short-lived career, took responsibility for the blazing overall colour scheme. He also worked closely with his friend Charles Ginner, a fellow-member of the Camden Town Group, on some monumental wall decorations with exotic locations. Jungle scenes painted by the Douanier Rousseau influenced them as much as Gauguin's Tahitian idylls, but both Ginner and Gore worked in a sharp-edged, stripped-down style of their own. They made sure that visitors to the Cave were surrounded by visions of a South Seas nirvana, where elephants, tigers and monkeys move through scarlet vegetation and naked horsemen ride bareback after deer whose leaping contours are reminiscent of prehistoric art. Deliberately courting "barbarity", these savage decorations reminded one critic of "the primitive simplicity of the days when art was in its infancy. It was, after all, on bones and on the walls of caves that the artistic instinct found its first expression."

Wyndham Lewis, who painted a drop curtain with an equally "savage" scene, took full advantage of Strindberg's invitation to help to transform the Cave. Still wet on the opening night, his curtain stuck fast when attempts were made to unfurl it over the stage. But he triumphed with an immense painting called *Kermesse*, inspired by orgiastic festivals he had seen during his youthful travels on the Continent.

The canvas itself, probably intended to deliver the initial shock to visitors as they walked down the steps from pavement level, has since been lost. Dramatic studies for the painting survive, though, and they show how dancing figures were turned into an aggressive display of thrusting, semi-mechanistic dynamism. Lewis was particularly admired by Madame Strindberg, for she commissioned him to design the superbly energetic programmes, posters and promotional pamphlets announcing the Cave's boisterous advent. But *Kermesse* was his youthful masterpiece, and it convinced many that an outstanding new talent was revolutionising modern British art.

Nothing now remains of the sculpture she asked Jacob Epstein to produce. But he later recalled that it was a very elaborate decoration which I painted in brilliant colours". Epstein had spent the previous few years labouring on a titanic stone carving, the controversial *Tomb of Oscar Wilde* now in Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris. At the Cave, by contrast, he "proceeded directly in plaster", covering "two massive iron pillars" which supported the ceiling. Half human and half animal, the images Epstein modelled and then painted must have been raspingly in accord with the primitive jungle scenes on the walls.

Like much of his then current sculpture, they testified to



Excited by continental experiments linking art and cabaret, Frida Uhl Strindberg set out to recreate the same vision in a basement off Regent Street

a pioneering involvement with African, Oceanic and Indian art rather than the classical tradition of the West. Lewis remembered how Epstein created "figures appearing to hold up the threateningly low ceiling". They heightened the brazen, outlandish atmosphere that Strindberg wanted her club to possess.

Eric Gill, the other young sculptor who worked there, once declared that his friend Epstein was "quite mad about sex". But Gill's own erotic appetite outstripped even Epstein's, and he must have warmed instinctively to the name of a Cave inspired by the revelling, licentious Israelites and their alluring idol. Gill carved a gilded relief of the calf itself near the entrance,

along with a larger stone sculpture of the same animal in the round. Gleaming in the lamplight, it would have become a focal point for the feverish dancing that went on from midnight until dawn. As a young man about town, Osbert Sitwell never forgot the excitement of the Cave, "where the lesser artists of the theatre, as well as the greater, mixed with painters, writers, and their opposite, officers in the Brigade of Guards". It appeared to Sitwell's intoxicated eyes "a super-heated Vorticist garden of gesticulating figures, dancing and talking while the rhythm of the primitive forms of ragtime throbbed through the wide room".

Ezra Pound, Katherine Mansfield, Margaret Morris,

Ford Madox Ford and the bombastic Futurist leader Marinetti were among the diverse array of performers on the Cabaret's stage. But Strindberg remained at the centre of the proceedings, as she greeted visitors and presided over the night's provocative entertainments. Pound, who loved frequenting the Cave, relished in particular witnessing Strindberg "wave a customer away from her table, saying as she did so that sleep with him she would, but talk to him, never: 'One must draw the line somewhere.'"

Through chronic financial mismanagement, her effervescent arena foundered in debt only months before the onset of the First World War. But for a while, at least, the Cave had

become a hectic and exhilarating focus for anyone captivated by the reckless spirit of renewal in art. The indomitable, impossible Strindberg deserves a salute for her bravery in bringing such an unfiltered fantasy to life.

PETER BARNARD

ARTS

■ TOMORROW

New year, new trends . . .

Windy year of change

Short of giving a mime artist his own series, James Boyle could hardly have done more to upset the hyper-sensitive Radio 4 audience this year. But in some respects the Controller of Radio 4 could hardly have done less. Last April's revamp has dominated 1998 and it will dominate the first part of 1999, even if the next batch of listening figures, due in a fortnight, is less disastrous than the last. Boyle's error, in this critic's humble opinion, was that he changed the structure of the network and the programmes at the same time. Revolution is a red rag to a bullish audience and it duly charged. But if revolution was wrong, surely Radio 4 needed some pretty rapid evolution. It was, in all truth, looking decidedly stale. By stealth, Boyle could have done more with less fuss. Perhaps.

Still, let us not dwell on the failures but instead mention a couple of successes. John Peel's family programme on Saturday mornings is a genuine and quirky hit, the change which brought Jeremy Beckett to *Start the Week* has reinvigorated the programme

RADIO

and *The Choice*, fronted by Michael Buerk, is a success.

Boyle's insistence that no dramas should last longer than an hour, which I thought odd at the time, has produced some crisp and crackling productions, not least two brilliant and moving plays for Remembrance week.

There are other networks that warrant a place in the end-of-year gallery. In spite of the Save Radio 3 campaign, that network has failed to go to hell in a handcart and instead produced some wonderful musical moments, though I have to say that its most wonderful moment of all was when Camille Paglia stormed out of a *Sounding the Century* lecture after announcing that the audience was intellectually unfit to grace her presence.

Radio 5 Live continues to grow its audience, as the BBC suits like to put it. The sports output is terrific and Peter Dinkley and Jane Garvey from the best drivetime show on radio, but some of 5 Live's non-sport output is decidedly missable and too many of its featured interviews are about as tough as a visit from *Hellot* magazine.

The signs are that Radio 2 has successfully remade itself as a younger network, even if that leaves a lot of people aged over 55 wondering what they have done to deserve records by the Bee Gees.

Among the commercial stations, Talk Radio under Kelvin MacKenzie is already sharpening its act, especially in the approach to news, which will give 5 Live a run for its money. Classic FM remains enjoyable. But at the local level, there are still too many commercial stations lacking a real sense of serving a community. Happy new year.

PETER BARNARD

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: A Hungarian tour de force; waltzing round Vienna; and Colin Davis returns to *Dalila*

ORCHESTRAL

■ DOHNANYI
Symphony No 1: American Rhapsody
BBC Philharmonic/Barnert Chánidos Chan 9647
*** (£14.99)
THOUGH immortalised by his *Variations on a Nursery Song*, Ernő Dohnányi has come to be better represented in the catalogue over the past few years with recordings of works in various genres. In 1900, when he began the First Symphony, he was 23 and just out of college, but anxious to prove himself a leading force in Hungarian music life. How better than by demonstrating

CDS reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CHAMBER

■ WALTZ REFLECTIONS
Arrangements by Berg, Schoenberg, Webern
Vienna String Quartet
CPO 999 588-2 ***
 (£14.99)
FOR anyone tempted to turn up the nose at the distant drifts of Johann Strauss drifting on the midnight air tonight, let it be remembered that Berg, Schoenberg and Webern, no less, honoured the Waltz King in ways which soon become clear in this totally irresistible New Year's disc. "I do not see, if other people entertain themselves, why I should not, at least occasionally," wrote Arnold Schoenberg. "If truth be told, his chamber-musical arrangements of Strauss waltzes were written as much to clear the debts of his rather more rigorous and exclusive Society for Private

BARRY MILLINGTON

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES IN VIENNA

But his 1920s arrangements of the *Emperor Waltz* for flute, clarinet, string quartet and piano, to say nothing of his *Roses from the South*, will certainly afford at the very least a little, er, occasional entertainment. And then there is Alban Berg's cunning *Wine, Women and Song* for string quartet, piano and harmonium, and Anton Webern's wind-up musical-box of a *Schaltwalzer* from the *Gipsy Baron*, which at ten minutes nearly breaks his own record for volatility.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA

■ SAINT-SAENS
Samson et Dalila
Borodina/Cura/Lafont/LSO/
Davis
Erato 3984 24756-2 ***
(two CDs, £30.99)
SIR COLIN DAVIS is one of his own chief rivals in the Samson stakes. He recorded nine years ago the only Saint-Saens opera to keep its place in the repertory, using Carreras and Baliza in the title roles.

JOHN HIGGINS

OPERA

On return Davis opts for a heavier combination vocally in Jose Cura and Olga Borodina. Cura is at once the people's hero, using brazen tones to stir up the weak-kneed Hebrews against the Philistine yolk. He may lack the pathos Carreras brought to the blinded Samson in Act III as he heaves his mill-stone round and round. But he always sounds the kind of man who can move moun-

JOHN HIGGINS

OPERA

tains and bring temples crashing down.
Borodina has long included Dalila's aria in her operatic recital programme and, with her mezzo voluptuously warm, she is especially impressive in *Printemps qui commence*. Not the subtlest of Dalilas perhaps, but one full of eastern promise. The High Priest of Dagon, who eggs her on, is an unexciting role but Jean-Philippe Lafont makes the most of it, and Robert Lloyd is rock solid as the Old Hebrew. Davis himself takes the LSO at measured pace, emphasising the exotic sounds of the Orient Saint-Saens loved so much, before unleashing everything in the last act.

JOHN HIGGINS

CAPTIVATING DRAMA IS JUST WONDERFUL... SPIRITED, FUNNY AND UPLIFTING.

"A MOVIE OF EMOTIONAL DEPTH, HUMOUR AND GREAT HUMANITY."

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Gene Hackman
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Ethan Hawkes
and Gillian Anderson

The quest for friendship is the noblest cause of all.

THE MIGHTY

Courage comes in all sizes.

NOW SHOWING

BOOKS

Shallow water beneath the icy surface

Slip a CD into your personal stereo and head out of the door. As the streets unspool before you and the music fills your head, it might be easy to imagine you're in a movie: the little machine in your pocket plays the soundtrack to your life. You wait for the final crawl — or should that be the final crawl? But what would happen if you took off your headphones and the music didn't stop?

Such is the world that entraps Victor Ward in Bret Easton Ellis's latest novel, *Glamorama*. Ward, his sculpted abs draped in Comme des Garçons and Prada, is a model and aspiring actor. He might get a part in *Flaubert's II*; he's on the cover of *Youthquake* and every newsstand bears his mirror. He's dating a supermodel and opening a club. His life is perfect, on the surface, or his surface life is perfect: but the rooms he stands in are always very cold, there's constant everywhere and the Klonopin is starting to affect his memory.

With his last big novel, *American Psycho*, Bret Easton Ellis de-

Flay the skin from Bret Easton Ellis's bright young things and what is left?

monstrated his willingness to flay the skin from a society's face and reveal the skull beneath. It is a work of almost unreadable savagery in which Easton Ellis applied his cool, toneless style with absolute impartiality, from the mundane to murder. Perhaps the shock the novel caused revealed that we had not, in fact, become asured to horror as its author had supposed. But where to go from there? It is hard to imagine anything beyond *American Psycho*; it was the extreme, bladed edge of fiction. It was sure to be a tough act to follow, and his last offering, *The Informers*, was far too slight to be considered any kind of statement.

Of course, "slight", in the worlds that Bret Easton Ellis creates, is a relative term. His creations — one can hardly call them characters — reveal very little substance beneath their ubiquitous beauty; that's the whole point. About a quarter of the

way through this extremely long novel, Victor complains how tough modelling is. "It's a job where you need to know how to wear clothes", his companion asks him. "It's a job where you need to know how to — now let me get this straight — walk". Precisely. Victor is shallow and vapid. Shallowness and vapid are dangerous failings (Easton Ellis may be amoral, but he is not immoral); the society that Victor and his friends inhabit is therefore a dangerous and sinister place. "Behind the curtains it's a mock-airport lounge but with disco white lights and burgundy velvet booths, a giant poster stretches across a black wall with the word BREED in purple spectral lettering and dozens of UK record-company executives in Mad Max gear hang out with tattooed models from Holland and managing directors from Poly-



gram share bananas and sip cybernetic drinks with magazine editors and ... New York, London, Paris, it's all the same. The trouble with this conceit is that it is hard for a character with such little depth — whatever peculiar or intriguing things may happen to

him — to hold a reader's attention for nearly 500 pages.

This is too bad, because the novel has a weird potential to be good. The utter emptiness of its first section has the feel of a set-up and sure enough, it is: Victor becomes entangled in a plot that seems to involve kidnapping and international terrorism: but is any of what is happening real? Everywhere he goes the rooms are freezing — by the end of the book they are sheeted with ice — and sometimes there's a director to tell him what to do, how to move; there seems to be a script, only Victor's not quite sure what his lines are. Are the bodies blown apart by the mysterious bombers real or are they props? The graphic description lavished on them appears to make them real enough; but you can't be quite sure. Victor certainly isn't.

This gap between the reader's perception and Victor's perception is interesting; in fiction that shady fellow, the unreliable narrator, has the ability to fascinate and frustrate in equal measure. The problem lies in the narrowness of Easton Ellis's

vision. It may be possible to make a short story out of little more than a thin conceit — Martin Amis's recent collection, *Heavy Water and Other Stories*, is an almost perfect illustration of the possibilities of that form — but a novel requires more than that. The fundamental connection between the reader and the book in his hand, however experimental its form, is character.

Glamorama aspires to be Kafkaesque; but there are no characters to equal those found in Kafka's work. Their suffering or confusion seems terrible because it might be that the suffering too: here the thread is broken, or was never strung in the first place.

Glamorama's title has an ironic ring, but a hollow one: Easton Ellis's failure is his inability to recognise that in order to show there is nothing beneath the surface you must still build the structure that holds the surface up.

GLAMORAMA
By Bret Easton Ellis
Pleasor, £16
ISBN 0 330 37208 4



Still going strong

THE PRINCESS BRIDE
By William Goldman
Macmillan, £14.99
ISBN 0 7475 4322

MORE THAN 25 years after it was first published, *The Princess Bride* has become a cult classic. This anniversary edition includes a new introduction by William Goldman and the first chapter of *Buttercup's Baby*, the long-lost sequel. Goldman's tale of what happens when the most beautiful girl in the world marries the most handsome prince of all time may not be particularly high-minded, but a cast of cartoonish characters — Vizini, the Sicilian, Count Rugen, the most evil man of all, and the gentle giant Fezzik — make this a deeply touching fairy-tale for grown-ups.

Syria's prize

GRANDFATHER'S TALE
By Ulfat Idilbi
Quartet, £5
ISBN 0 7043 8100 1

IN Damascus an old lady enthals her grandchildren with tales of her grandfather, Salih, who came from Daghestan in the Caucasus. As a child he lived with his father and stepmother in Damascus and yearned for the day when his mother would join them there. It is not until Salih grows up and leaves his childhood home that he gets the chance to travel north and find his mother again. In her second novel, Ulfat Idilbi — Syria's most prized woman writer — explores the close links between the Muslim Caucasus and the Arab world in a powerfully stirring narrative.

Too dreary

LENOIR
By Henk Brom
Bloomsbury, £15.99
ISBN 0 944072 93 3

THIS book is an example of how the most curious lives can be turned into the dreariest novels. Ken Greenhall examines the life of a slave boy, uprooted from Africa to Amsterdam where he is sold as a bondservant. The lithe, handsome Lenoir meets artwork Svengali, Dom Twee, who offers the boy around like an exotic sweetmeat. He becomes muse, model and colour mixer in Rubens's studio and poses for the painter's great piece, *Four Heads of a Negro*. Greenhall's first person narrative is stilted, unconvincing and doesn't even sketch in the life of a 17th-century black slave in Holland.

Junk food

THE FOLDED LIE
By Jeremy Cooper
Ellipsis, £12.99
ISBN 1 899858 54 7

IN THIS ambitious but ultimately confusing novel, Jeremy Cooper examines the possibilities of war and peace at the end of this century and the beginning of the next. Following the story of Willem Boymans, an unbearably annoying character, Israelier like an insect, we flick from the Millennium Art Show at Bankside, to the private life of a Japanese defence attorney in suburban Tokyo by way of Greenpeace, Christopher Humbphreys, Stockhausen, Goebbels and Joshua Compston. By the end we feel that we have absorbed an awful lot about very little at all.

ALEX O'CONNELL

IN metro ON SATURDAY

Thomas Keneally, the "Frier Tuck of Oz Lit.", talks with Caroline Baum, and Jason Cowley assesses next year's titles, including Monica Lewinsky's memoirs and the history of the tulip. ALBO: surfing fanatic Russell Celyn Jones admires Ken Nunn's new surfing thriller; and on the verge of a new year, George Brock looks into the future as predicted by a pair of New Yorkers.

The body broken

Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the tormented mind of the visionary Armenian painter Arshile Gorky

In 1928, when men wore pencil moustaches and pomaded hair, Arshile Gorky was wandering the streets of New York, unshaven. His sister quizzed him gently about his unfashionable appearance. "I want to paint myself as Christ, with long hair and a beard," he replied. "When I finish it's going to be one of the best portraits in New York."

This is just one anecdote recounted in passing in a biography so richly researched that every chapter brings a cluster of such stories. But what this particular tale introduces is Gorky's sense of dedication to a higher cause: "The torments in my mind impel me to recognise that I must have been born to suffer for art," he later wrote to his sister. His 1947 painting, *Agony* — a body broken apart and roughly reassembled from disparate components — speaks powerfully of its painter's Christ-like sense of "strangeness" and transfiguration. Gorky, said his closest friend, was a "classical example of the tragic hero, the one who is crucified".

From the moment of his arrival in America, a moody Armenian immigrant, his threadbare jacket marked with a cross of chalk, to his final days when, with his neck fractured in a car crash, he lay in traction "like Christ in crucifixion", the symbol of the cross

BLACK ANGEL
A Life of Arshile Gorky
By Nouritza Matossian
Chatto & Windus, £25
ISBN 0 7011 5363 6



shadowed Gorky's life. In his early forties, abandoned by his Bostonian wife and humiliated by cancer, he slashed his last canvas with a knife before removing his neck brace and hanging himself. His already broken spine snapped easily. Arshile Gorky is one of those painters — like Soutine or Van Gogh — whose life was at least as passionate as his art. The two were utterly integrated. And this is what Nouritza Matossian brings out best in *Black Angel*, the first major biography of Gorky, published to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. Matossian's portrayal of the artistic development and influence of a painter remembered by art history as the link between the European Surrealist



Arshile Gorky's *The Artist and His Mother* was influenced by Armenian religious art

painters and the Abstract Expressionist movement in America is thoroughly researched. But where her particular talent lies is in her perception that the key to Gorky's work rests in Armenian history, in the origins of a man born Manoug Adoian in a village on the shores of Lake Van, reared amid the Turkish genocide of his people, suffering famine and exile before finally reaching America at the age of 17. Gorky's entire oeuvre sprang from these roots. His lifelong obsession with his

mother, his constant attempts to recapture her spirit and essence in paint, speak of a visceral yearning to come to terms with his past. Armenian herself, Matossian has a deep emotional affinity with her subject. She is the first of his biographers who speaks and reads his language and, through meetings with his sister (the only surviving person to have shared his childhood), she exposes deliberate misformations and breaks new ground. Perhaps the stricter scholar

might find her under-critical and over-dramatic (she has a tendency to invent direct speech). But less rigorous readers will be swept along by a compulsive narrative and charmed to find something so like a love affair between biographer and subject revealed. One is almost surprised to find, when turning to the author's photograph on the back flap of the dust-jacket, that Matossian bears a striking resemblance to the lost mother with whom Gorky felt such a profound connection.

Reinventing the moment

History tends to be written by the winners, but fiction can be an act of redress. Michèle Roberts has long been interested in telling the suppressed side of the story, rather than the version which has marched into history. In *The Wild Girl* she wrote an earthy, sparkling and persuasive life-story of Mary Magdalene. Her new novel, *Fair Exchange* is rooted in the love-affair between William Wordsworth and Annette Vallon, and in the radical idealism with which Wordsworth and his literary contemporaries responded to the start of the French Revolution.

In her Foreword, Roberts observes that she has taken liberties and "plundered" aspects of Mary Wollstonecraft to create her own *Jemima*. But she is exact when it comes to giving a sense of what it may have been like to be alive at that time, among those people. Her characters inhabit the moment, expansively, and are rounded out with Roberts's characteristic humour and sensuousness. There is no jarring intrusion of historical hindsight. *Jemima* and *Annette* do not know the outcome of the French Revolution, or indeed that it will ever end. They are

HELEN DUNMORE
FAIR EXCHANGE
By Michèle Roberts
Little, Brown, £15.99
ISBN 0 316 84804 2
THE HOURLS
By Michael Cunningham
4th Estate, £12.99
ISBN 1 84115 034 7

living through a hurricane which they survive without fully understanding it. Two unmarried pregnant women held up in the French countryside have other things to think of, such as hammering makeshift tables for soup, and enduring childbirth. They keep themselves and their dependants clean and fed, while clinging to a romantic ideal of love for their elusive, poetical impregnators. Roberts writes with acid humour about the speed with which revolutionary sexual theory loses its attraction once it is made flesh. Flesh — the fear and fragility of it, and the moments of bliss it offers in exchange for days of distress — was a subject at the core of Virginia

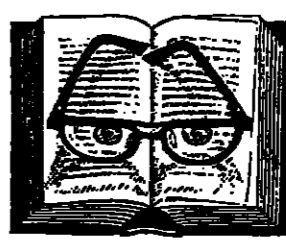


Virginia Woolf, as photographed by Man Ray in the 1920s

Woolf's writing and life. Her unease in the body, her dislike of her own reflection, her anguish over clothes and her public presence, are as well-recorded as her moments of intense bodily joy, in walking, swimming, being embraced by a sister or a female lover, looking at the textures of ripeness in a bowl of fruit or at the Downs "burning blue" with frost.

Woolf's complexity and the extent to which her life has been documented in her own letters, diaries and fiction, as well as in extensive biographies, make her an intimidating subject for fiction. When Michael Cunningham began to describe an imagined day in 1923, as experienced by Woolf while she was writing *Mrs Dalloway*, he must have been

CONGRATULATIONS to the Rampant Lions Press of Cambridge on its golden jubilee in January. Ever since Will Carter set up the press in Chesterton Road in 1949, it has been a standard bearer for good printing and design around the university and beyond. Its own books are subsidised by jobbing work for other imprints and for individuals, and it is a pleasure to recognise the simple elegance of its printing in anything from the Eothen Press's Christmas card to wood-engravings for the Prince of Wales. *Miscellany 2* displays the range of work undertaken (95% from Swan House, Over, Cambridge).



BIBLIOMANE

The excellent Department of Typography at Reading has just produced a full catalogue of the university's remarkable archive of manuscripts by Samuel Beckett (£25/£15, from The Library, Whiteknights, Reading).

AS bookfairs and internet book searches become more dominant, secondhand bookshops are being squeezed. Bloomsbury's Antiquarian Books Arcade is closing, and after several decades J. Clarke-Hall, which specialises in Dr Johnson and his circle, is being driven away from Fleet Street by a rent rise. From February, Clarke-Hall's business will be primarily postal, from 75 Middle Street, Deal, Kent (01304 375467). Until then, there is a sale of prints, maps and some books in the shop in Bride Lane.

WATERFIELDS, the Oxford bookshop specialising in history, philosophy and French, has moved into the High Street, where its stock will be smaller, but promises to be more select. And in Cambridge, the Heffers group of seven shops is up for sale.

Keele University has been widely criticised for selling a bequest of 1,400 mathematical books, including eight from Newton's library. The collection was said to be "unrelated to the university's

interests", presumably because it did not meet teaching needs. But a proper university must also be a place of research, and such exceptional collections are essential to a university's life. Keele seems not to know the value of such things — for the collection was sold much too cheaply.

NEWCASTLE University's library, meanwhile, has been left not only several hundred antiquarian books, but 81 million by the widow of the bookseller Philip Robinson (who died in 1991). Robinson's bookshop in Pall Mall came to prominence with its purchase of a large portion of the vast library of Sir Thomas Phillips after the war and rose into the international big league, but began business modestly in Newcastle. "It is our responsibility to ensure that the money is used in ways which are worthy of the trust shown in making this provision," says the university librarian, Dr Tom Graham.

Omega Cuts is a catalogue of 165 woodcuts and linocuts done for the Omega Workshops after the First World War by artists including Gaudier-Brzeska, Wadsworth, McKnight, Kauffman and the inevitable Bloomsburys. Many of the illustrations were experiments cut for greetings cards or bookplates, and the medium is somewhat rough and ready, but this promises to be a substantial publication, with more than 500 copies, starting at £140. A prospectus is available from the Wood Lea Press, 1 Warren Hill Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

JIM MCCUE

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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Law Report December 31 1988 Court of Appeal

Judge should use power to commit parent sparingly

In re M (a Minor) (Contact order: Commitment)

Before Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment December 16]

A circuit judge had power of his own motion to commit a mother for contempt of court for failure to comply with an order giving the father contact with their children, but such a procedure should only be used as a last resort in an urgent and exceptional case.

In a case of civil contempt the judge should not both initiate the commitment and adjudicate on the commitment itself.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the mother's appeal against the dismissal by Judge Coningsby, QC, in Croydon County Court on March 26, 1998, of her application to strike out a notice, drafted by the judge, to show cause why she should not be found to be in breach of a contact order and striking out the proceedings against the mother.

Mr Dennis Sharpe for the mother; the father in person; Ms Alice Robinson as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that one of the thorniest problems which faced judges exercising the private law jurisdiction of the Children Act 1989 was how to cope with the irrational, obstinate hostility shown by one parent towards the other which had alienated the children from the other parent and thus obstructed their contact with that parent.

The courts had become sadly familiar with the troublesome question of whether or not a contact order should be made. The problem arose as to how the court should react when a party openly defied that contact order and the judges were being constrained on rare occasions to commit a parent to prison for breach of such orders.

The questions which arose were whether the judge should of his own motion initiate commitment proceedings and if he did so and acted as prosecutor, whether he should also sit in judgment and sentence if the breach was established.

The parties married and had four children. The marriage broke down in 1995 when the father left home. At first there was contact but after six months it broke down. Judge Coningsby explored the reasons for the cessation in a four-day hearing in April 1997 and delivered an 80-page judgment. He rejected the mother's allegations against the father.

He found that the mother had influenced the children to make allegations against the father, that the mother harboured a committed hostility to the father and against the idea of direct contact. There was no appeal against that judgment.

He made an order for contact with the two younger children at a contact centre and a review of the case in the autumn. The children did not see their father.

On the review the judge rejected the mother's application to adjourn matters so the Official Solicitor might represent the children, and made another contact order endorsed with a penal notice.

At a review in January the judge found that the mother had taken no steps to comply with the order and the judge to proceed of his own motion to commit her to prison.

On March 26, 1998 Judge Coningsby dismissed that application and made ancillary orders dispensing with the need for an application by the father and an affidavit in support. The mother appealed. The commitment proceedings were stayed.

His Lordship was satisfied that the court judge had jurisdiction to proceed of his own motion in such a case. Counsel did not seriously challenge that but the judge to proceed of his own motion to commit her to prison.

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the father was deeply concerned by the lack of success and no doubt blamed the mother for it, he was not contemplating taking steps to commit her.

Nevertheless the judge took the view that there was an arguable case that the mother was in breach and it was his duty to ensure that the issue was tried.

The judge ordered of the court's own motion that the mother be required to show cause why the penal notice should not be activated by a suitable penalty for breach of that order. The judge then drafted the particulars of breach.

An order was drawn up that the mother show cause why she should not be found to be in breach in failing to hand over the children "in a fit and proper case to have contact with the father", giving six examples.

The mother applied to strike out the notice to show cause on the grounds that it was not within the proper exercise of judicial power or discretion for a judge to issue such a notice of his own motion and/or that the matters complained of could not amount to contempt of court in law.

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Whether two people were living as husband and wife

In re the Estate of John Watson (Deceased)

Before Mr Justice Neuberger
[Judgment November 27]

When considering whether a person was living as the wife of the deceased for the purposes of the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, the court should estimate the opinion of the reasonable person. It could be said that the two people were living together as husband and wife. However, when considering that question, it should not ignore the multifarious nature of marital relationships.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when granting an application by Eileen Griffiths for reasonable financial provision from the estate of John Watson. The application was opposed by the Crown to whom the whole estate would otherwise have passed as bona vacantia.

Section 1 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) Where ... a person dies domiciled in England and Wales and is survived by any of the following persons ... that person may apply to the court ... on the ground that the disposition of the deceased's estate effected by his will or the law relating to intestacy ... is not such as to make reasonable financial provision for the applicant."

Subsection (1A), as inserted by section 2(3) of the Law Reform (Succession) Act 1995, provides: "This subsection applies to a person if ... during the whole or part of the two years ending immediately before the date when the deceased died, the person was living (a) in the same household as the deceased, and (b) as the husband or wife of the deceased."

Mr Andrew Marsden for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Evans for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that Miss Griffiths, who was born in 1931, had formed an attachment with John Watson in 1964. She moved into Mr Watson's house in 1965 where they both lived until his death.

The basis of the financial arrangement between them was that Mr Watson continued working, thereby providing most of the income for the running of the household and Miss Griffiths was responsible for the housekeeping, washing, shopping, cooking and gardening. It was also agreed that she would contribute towards half the cost of outgoings such as gas, electricity and telephone.

Although in his earliest years their relationship included sexual intimacy, during the period that Miss Griffiths and Mr Watson lived together they did not share a bedroom or enjoy sexual relations.

His Lordship said that section 1(1A)(b) of the Act gave no express guidance as to whether the court should be concerned with the external appearance of the relationship or its internal nature.

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the father was deeply concerned by the lack of success and no doubt blamed the mother for it, he was not contemplating taking steps to commit her.

Nevertheless the judge took the view that there was an arguable case that the mother was in breach and it was his duty to ensure that the issue was tried.

The judge ordered of the court's own motion that the mother be required to show cause why the penal notice should not be activated by a suitable penalty for breach of that order. The judge then drafted the particulars of breach.

An order was drawn up that the mother show cause why she should not be found to be in breach in failing to hand over the children "in a fit and proper case to have contact with the father", giving six examples.

The mother applied to strike out the notice to show cause on the grounds that it was not within the proper exercise of judicial power or discretion for a judge to issue such a notice of his own motion and/or that the matters complained of could not amount to contempt of court in law.

On March 26, 1998 Judge Coningsby dismissed that application and made ancillary orders dispensing with the need for an application by the father and an affidavit in support. The mother appealed. The commitment proceedings were stayed.

His Lordship was satisfied that the court judge had jurisdiction to proceed of his own motion in such a case. Counsel did not seriously challenge that but the judge to proceed of his own motion to commit her to prison.

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They were right to do so. Order 52, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court gave the High Court power to make an order of committal of its own motion against a person guilty of contempt of court.

By rule 1 committal for contempt covered both criminal and civil cases. By section 38 of the County Court Act 1984, the power applied in the county court as well.

There was no direct authority as to the manner in which a judge should direct himself when considering whether or not to initiate proceedings for committal for a breach of his order when the other party was not asking for that committal.

His Lordship dealt first with the judge's decision to act as prosecutor, formulate the charges himself and settle the necessary particulars.

A fair trial required the protections afforded by Order 29 of the County Court Rules, primarily the requirement in rule 4 to identify the provisions of the order which it was alleged had been disobeyed and to list the ways in which the order was breached.

In the first instance the task of the applicant, if he was unwilling to move, one way to achieve the result would be to invite the Attorney-General as amicus curiae.

The judge did not wish to overburden the Attorney-General. In circumstances where the applicant was also right that it was essential to put the mother on notice of the case she had to meet.

If, which was the main issue, he was intent on pursuing the committal, it was for her to identify the particulars himself than

wholly incorrect reason for dismissal. The claim of constructive dismissal failed.

His Lordship rejected as a proposition of law the notion that there could be no acceptance of a repudiation unless the employee told the employer, at the time, that he was leaving because of the employer's repudiatory conduct.

Each case would turn on its own facts and, where no reason was communicated to the employer at the time, the fact-finding tribunal might more readily conclude that the repudiatory conduct was not the reason for the employee leaving.

In each case it would, however, be for the fact-finding tribunal, considering all the evidence, to decide whether there had been an acceptance.

In *Harrison*, Lord Justice Neill was doing no more than concluding, on the facts, that there was no unconditional acceptance of the repudiation, before it was withdrawn and no longer remained open for acceptance by the employee.

There was no mention in the analysis of the law of repudiation in the employment field by Lord Justice Buckley in *Gunn v Richmond upon Thames LBC* [1998] 1 All ER 1053, which the court in *Harrison* relied on, of a requirement to communicate the true reason for leaving.

In the present case, the industrial tribunal was amply justified in holding that there was a constructive dismissal.

At the first stage of her employment, the employers had put Mrs Sargent in an outrageous and embarrassing position.

It was understandable that she did not want immediately to confront the employers with her reason for leaving.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Robert Davies Partnership, Usk; Ms Stan Hughes, Birmingham.

MR JUSTICE PILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that if the powers under section 2(2)(b) were properly invoked, the overall sentence appeared to be justified, even upon a guilty plea, in the circumstances of this case.

However, their Lordships had been troubled as to whether the reference to the sentence "not exceeding the permitted maximum" rendered the 12-year sentence unlawful. The maximum sentence for an offence of indecent assault was 10 years imprisonment.

The focus in sections 1 and 2 of the 1991 Act was upon a sentence for an individual offence. However, neither section affected the principle that sentences for separate offences might in appropriate circumstances be consecutive or the

Regina v B (Longer term sentences)

Before Lord Justice Pill, Mr Justice Turner and Judge Advocate General James Rant, QC
[Judgment December 15]

Under section 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 a court sentencing a defendant for a violent or sexual offence was given the power to pass such longer term of custodial sentence, not exceeding the permitted maximum, as it thought necessary to protect the public.

That power related to a sentence for an individual offence. When sentences for separate offences were imposed for separate offences it was not permissible then to exercise the power in relation to the aggregate sentence resulting from those sentences.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal against sentences, but maintaining the overall sentence imposed.

On October 10, 1997 the appellant, following his plea of guilty to an indictment containing six counts of indecent assault on children, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court by Judge Egan Edwards to 12 years imprisonment on each count, consecutive, making a total of 12 years.

Mr Michael Thoka, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Brian Altman as amicus curiae.

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that she were left in the dark. As for the judge deciding to try the contempt himself, that stood in a different light.

It was usually easier and might be imperative for a judge to deal with any contempt committed in the face of his court, but in a civil contempt, where proper opportunity had to be afforded the contemnor to prepare the case against him or her, then ordinarily a judge should not both initiate the commitment and thereafter sit in judgment of it.

It all too easily gave rise to a real possibility of bias being assumed to shape and so corrupt public confidence in the judgment. Another judge could have been found to deal separately with the committal aspect leaving Judge Coningsby free to manage the contact where the continuity of his knowledge of the case would have been an important advantage.

As for the mother's procedural disadvantages, because the judge dispensed with the need for the father to file evidence supporting the alleged breaches, the judge would inevitably have had to rely on matters of which he gained knowledge in the course of the contact proceedings, not on evidence placed before him in the application.

Arguably, therefore, he was effectively depriving the mother of her right to call evidence as she would not be a compellable witness in those proceedings.

Those factors were not determinative but they confirmed that the chosen course was the "wrong course".

The central issue was what should guide the judge to a proper

decision. The important features for the court to bear in mind in the case of civil contempt were the following:

1 The extent to which knowledge of the breach had become a matter of public concern amounting to scandal capable of diminishing the authority of the court such as might lead to an increased flouting of its orders.

2 The extent to which some other interest than that of the defendant was in need of protection. In this case the interests of the child were to be upheld and the child's welfare was to be at the forefront of the judge's consideration.

3 The contempt had to be clear as well as flagrant.

4 Pursuing a committal of one's own motion was a highly exceptional course to follow and the more so in family cases where committal orders were remedies of the very last resort. Applying to commit of the court's own motion was at a stage even further down the line of case-managing the impossible.

5 A judge should always take time to pause for reflection, and invite the Official Solicitor to represent the child's own motion as at a stage even further down the line of case-managing the impossible.

Where the judge had a lingering doubt about the balance between the need to maintain the authority of the court and the effect of committal on the children, he might be assisted by inviting the Official Solicitor's help in providing an independent view of the interests of the children, if that had not been adequately covered by a court welfare

approach to the contact application.

3 The matters constituting the breach seemed far from clear. The family dynamic was too complicated to send this mother to prison for failing to produce the children in the right psychological state of mind to enjoy their contact.

4 The principal justifications for proceeding of the judge's own motion were to protect the interests of the child and the administration of justice. Neither had been properly addressed.

5 The interests of the children. The judge assumed that coercive powers of the court would maintain a link with the father through contact, but did not appear to consider what effect a committal application might have had on the children.

There was an almost inevitable risk that the committal proceedings might themselves exacerbate the poor relationship between children and father and so hinder not justice but the children's welfare.

It would have been better to invite the Official Solicitor to represent the children to investigate where their interests best lay, and the judge was wrong not to do so.

6 As for the public interest, since the committal proceedings were all heard in chambers there was no danger of the mother's defiance becoming public knowledge.

The judge should not have made an example of this mother. The public interest in the administration of justice did not require it.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Beverley Golden, Totton; Treasury Solicitor.

power by exercising the paragraph (b) power in relation to individual sentences.

Sections 1 and 2 of the 1991 Act were not concerned with and did not have the effect of eliminating or limiting the power of the court to order sentences to run consecutively.

There were two distinct groups of offences in the case and the power to order consecutive sentences could properly be exercised.

Law Report December 31 1988 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Effective machinery for enforcement of fines

Regina v Hereford Magistrates' Court, Ex parte MacRae... Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Auld...

On December 5, 1997, and communicated orally to the applicant on March 12, 1998, in issue distress warrants against her...

Under the enforcement system adopted by the respondent, the issue of warrants was delegated to an administrative officer...

It was not disputed that the justices had power to delegate to the court's chief financial officer, their judicial discretion whether or not to issue a distress warrant...

But a means inquiry could only be held where the court was considering issuing a warrant of commitment...

In R v Guildford Justices, Ex parte Rich [1997] 1 Cr App R (S) 49 the Divisional Court held that an unrepresented defendant at a means inquiry should have been given the opportunity to show cause why a distress warrant should not be issued...

The respondent's system properly reflected these desirable principles and was to be commended. Finally, the suggestion that the court had power to revoke the distress warrant once issued must also be rejected...

Centre not used as village hall

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Jubilee Hall Recreation Centre Ltd... Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir John Vinelott...

The charity was at the time of reconstruction intended for use as a village hall or similarly in providing social or recreational facilities for a local community...

As to that he had said: "I can see no conceivable justification in this approach. The first ground of objection by Mr Kent is that such a limitation must be read into the legislation so as to make it accord with the EC Sixth Council Directive...

respect of the supply of services, including the reconstruction of a building, in the sense that the local community was the user of the services, through a body of trustees or a management committee acting on its behalf...

Satnam Investments Ltd v Dunlop Heywood and Co Ltd and Others... Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Brooke...

in the absence of dishonesty, a property company taking advantage of information that it knew to be confidential to a commercial competitor and to have been disclosed to it in breach of a fiduciary duty owed to its competitor...

While there were no doubt other cases in which someone who was not a trustee or did not owe a fiduciary duty to another would be held liable as a constructive trustee...

Company not liable to rival

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Arrangements for criminal skeletons

Practice Direction (Criminal appeals: Skeleton arguments) Arrangements for the lodging of skeleton arguments in appeals against conviction and for the timetable for doing so were to apply forthwith...

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when sitting in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, with Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Harrison on December 15...

The skeleton argument from the advocate for the prosecuting authority should be lodged with the Registrar and the advocate for the appellant within 14 days of receipt of the skeleton argument for the appellant, or such longer period, or, in exceptional cases, such shorter period as the Registrar or the court might direct...

Practitioners should ensure that, where reliance was placed upon unreported cases in skeleton arguments, short head notes were included...

Scots Law Report December 31 1998 Inner House

Tribunal competent to decide by majority

Secretary of State for Social Security v M... Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Cullen), Lord McCuskey and Lord Eadie...

In the absence of express provision governing the point, a statutory tribunal could lawfully reach a decision by a majority...

As regards the second, it hardly squared with the fact that the legislation relating to other similar tribunals, such as industrial tribunals, social security tribunals, disability appeal tribunals and medical appeal tribunals, allowed for a majority decision...

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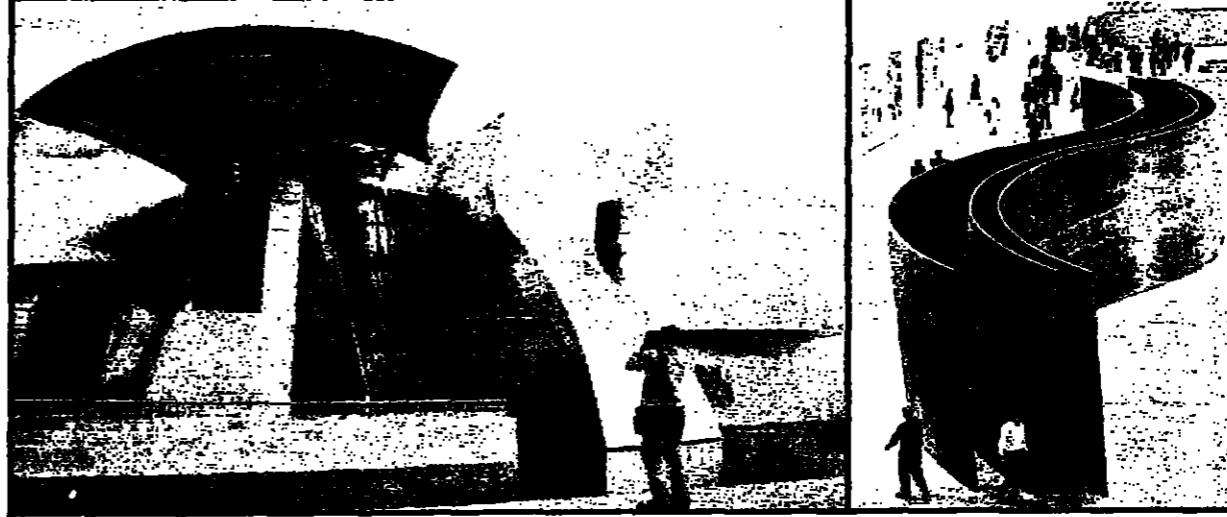
Sheep dip poisoning cases

Practice Direction (Queen's Bench Division: Organophosphate litigation) Arrangements were announced for the commencement and progress of actions in organophosphate litigation...

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when sitting in the Lord Chief Justice's Court with Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Harrison on December 21...

1 All proceedings in which the plaintiff claimed damages from the defendants in respect of organophosphate poisoning resulting from exposure to organophosphate products used in sheep dipping should be commenced by writ issued out of the central office of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court...

2 All such actions which had started in a district registry were to be transferred forthwith to the Royal Courts of Justice. The court on considering the transfer of any actions would have regard to any prejudice a party might suffer as to costs...



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RUGBY UNION

Kingsholm offers chance for reflection

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Gloucester and Bath meet on Saturday at Kingsholm, on the first Allied Dunbar Premiership weekend of the new year, they will be able to look back, as old friends do, on shared misfortunes. Both stand on 14 points in the first division, no more than respectable, and both have lost key players to the same injury, a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Jon Preston, the New Zealander, played no more than 27 minutes of Premiership rugby for Bath before being injured earlier this month. Now the half back has been followed to the casualty ward by Kingsley Jones, the Wales flanker, whose season has been abruptly terminated after less than three hours' service for Gloucester, whom he joined from Ebbw Vale this month.

Jones was operated upon after limping out of the Gloucester game with Wasps on Sunday and fears that his hopes of selection for the Welsh World Cup squad may be terminally affected. "I was hoping to get into the Wales A set-up during the five Nations series and work my way into the World Cup from there," he said, "but I think that by the time the summer comes, Graham Henry [the Wales coach] will have his squad set for the World Cup. I am not counting out the chance of playing in it, but it will be very difficult to get in."

Wales have two internationals scheduled for August, against France and Canada, as well as a tour to Argentina during the summer, but Jones, who was 30 on Christmas Day, will have no springboard from which to press his claims. Moreover, he leaves Gloucester with considerable problems in the back row, since Simon Devereux has a broken leg and will not play again this season and Peter Clavville is recovering from surgery on his knee.

The immediate answer against Bath will be the combination of Nathan Carter, Ed Pearce and Steve Ojomoh, though Ojomoh required treatment on Sunday to facial wounds. Gloucester also have Andy Dawling, the Army and Combined Services flanker, on their books, but the loss of Jones is not the type of news that they would have liked going into the new year. After an encouraging start to the season, they have struggled to make an impression away from Kingsholm and, even there, two games have been lost — one to Wasps, who completed the double last weekend, the other to Leicester, just before Christmas.

Bath, looking to end a depressing run of five Premiership defeats, have dropped Matt Perry, the England full back, in favour of Jonathan Callard. This is not so much a reflection upon Perry as upon Mike Catt's wayward goal-kicking. Callard, now more a coach than a first-XV player, is brought in to do what he did just under a year ago against Brive in the European Cup final and kick the goals that win matches.

Gloucester have every reason to welcome the new year. As the sole representatives of the home unions in the two European competitions, they look certain to welcome a crowd approaching 20,000 to Belfast on January 9 when they play Stade Francais in the semi-finals of the European Cup — it will be reminiscent of former glories, when Ravenhill hosted international matches.

Already, they have sold 14,000 tickets at a venue where temporary accommodation has extended the normal capacity of 11,500. Moreover, three experienced backs are set to return: David Humphreys, who led them to the unexpected quarter-final victory over Toulouse, has thrown off the effects of a bruised collarbone, while Jonathan Bell and Mark McCall are both expected to be available for selection at centre.



Ellis displays the dribbling skills that have brought her 49 caps for England and her team the National League for the past eight seasons

The Sheffield Hatters are billed by Betty Codona, OBE, their founder, as "the most successful club in English women's team sports". Some might think that is a fairly mad assertion, given that women's basketball remains a pinched, minority sport, but it is one that Vanessa Ellis, Codona's daughter and the England captain, is proud to believe in.

The Hatters have dominated a decade of domestic competitions. Winners of the National League for the past eight seasons, they have carried off the National Cup just as often and, in the Sheffield Arena on January 10, will contest another final, against the Birmingham Quality Cats.

Ellis had hoped to see out the last days of 1998 playing for England in Iceland — alongside two other Sheffield players — but that intention appeared to have been slung by the English Basketball Association (EBA) just two weeks ago. The intended trip, for three international matches, was cancelled when the EBA, which is responsible for both the men's and women's games, decided that it could not dig deep enough to find the necessary £4,000. However, there was some consolation when, after Codona intervened, the EBA agreed at the eleventh hour to lend the women £3,000 to

Ellis proves not all Hatters are mad

play in Belgium. "I have to do a fund-raiser," Codona said, "and the men wonder why we don't do very well."

"There's a big fight on for some equality," Ellis said. "People are realising that times are changing and women want more."

The EBA's reluctance to part with hard cash may be due, in part, to the low standing of England in the world rankings. "Even in European terms, we're some way behind," she said. "America, the top nation, with Lithuania, Germany, Spain and Italy all very strong. Ten years ago, Australia were nowhere and now they're in the top flight. We've got the potential, but we need the money and will to support it."

Talk of a National Basketball Academy, to be based in Sheffield, is lifting sagging spirits, but, at 34, Ellis realises that it will be another generation who will benefit. "That's very much for the future," she said. "If it happens, a national squad will be created where young girls will train throughout the year

SARAH POTTER



and be educated in Sheffield. It's what the other countries are doing and we need that professional situation to improve our status." Bearing that in mind, it seems a pity that the Sheffield Sharks, the men's professional Bundesliga League club, is as unfriendly to the neighbouring Hatters as its snappy name would suggest.

"They say they're a business and don't want to be involved with us," Ellis said. "It's a shame because, for very little to them, they could help us a lot. It's not uncommon for Bundesliga teams to help their female counterparts. Thames Valley, the team we beat in our cup semi-final, got a lot of support from their men. Their general manager pays for the women's courts and for their transport."

Without a sponsor, Ellis estimates that she spends up to £4,000 a season on basketball. "It soon mounts up," she said. "I'm a leisure and recreation lecturer at the Sheffield College of Further Education and, although they have supported me brilliantly, if England trips are away in term time, I have to take unpaid leave."

That she has been stuck on 49 England appearances for 18 months shows how scant her recent globetrotting opportunities have been. "It's a big ambition to get to 50 caps," she said. "In some ways, I don't mind that it's

taken a long time, because four years ago I injured my knee so badly I wasn't sure I'd be able to play again. I still feel it's special to represent England and, while I still can, I'm going for it wholeheartedly."

It is that sort of commitment that has made the Hatters the top side that they are. Codona, 60, still coaches the club she started nearly 40 years ago — in addition to carrying out her duties as director of coaching for basketball (men and women) at the EBA — and it is rare for a squad member to miss training.

"Our philosophy is to be in it 100 per cent," Ellis said. "Six of the side have been together for ten years and we've all got different talents, get on really well and are determined to win."

It has not always been so. "In the 1980s, we lost more games than we won and went two seasons without winning at all," Ellis said. "Someone asked me recently if I was sick of winning yet — what a silly question. That's the whole point and, though I do get depressed about the lack of opportunity, the Hatters' have earned their success."

SPORT IN BRIEF

In-form Schmitt closes on Ahonen

■ SKI JUMPING: Martin Schmitt, of Germany, continued his fine World Cup form in Oberstdorf, Germany, yesterday when he won the first leg of the Four Hills competition. Schmitt, 20, leapt 120.5 and 115.5 metres in compiling a total of 244.8 points. He was followed by Andreas Goldberg, of Austria, with 242.80 points, and Noriaki Kasai, of Japan, with 241.70 points.

Jarne Ahonen, of Finland, the overall leader in the World Cup, was fifth with two jumps of 117 and 115 metres. Schmitt, a team silver medal-winner at the Nagano Olympic Games, has 640 points this season to Ahonen's 653. The next legs of the Four Hills event take place at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria, on January 1, Innsbruck in Austria, on January 3 and at Bischofshofen, also in Austria, on January 6.

■ ATHLETICS: Genaro Di Napoli, of Italy, has been signed up for the BUPA Great North Cross Country race in Durham on Saturday after the withdrawal of Gareth Turnbull, the defending champion, from the invitation. Di Napoli will be the only overseas competitor in the race, which is over 3,000 metres.

■ TENNIS: Steffi Graf, the former women's world No 1, is unlikely to line up for Germany in the Federation Cup. Hans Egetz, her adviser, said yesterday that the 29-year-old had been unable to reach an agreement with the German tennis federation over terms. Germany take on Japan in the event in Hamburg on April 24 and 25.

■ BOXING: Larry Holmes, 49, said yesterday that his heavyweight contest against George Foreman, 50, a meeting of two former world champions, would go ahead on January 23 in Houston, Texas, despite reports that it might be cancelled because of a lack of interest from the public.

India let New Zealand off the hook

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MOHAMMAD Azharuddin, the India captain, called for rapid improvement after a partnership of 137 between Craig McMillan and Chris Cairns enabled New Zealand to claim victory in the second Test in Wellington. After McMillan and Cairns steadied the New Zealand second innings, the home side reached 215 for six with some comfort to fix the match by four wickets. India had scored 208 and 356 to set what had appeared to be a challenging winning target.

New Zealand lead the series 1-0 before the third and final Test, which starts in Hamilton on Saturday. The first Test was abandoned because of bad weather.

Both captains agreed that superior New Zealand fielding had been a decisive factor in the match, as well as the six-wicket partnership. India dropped four catches in the first innings and their fielding close to the wicket was poor. "Fielding has never been a strong point for us," Azharuddin said. "I have no answer to why that

is. It has to come from within because batting and bowling is not enough. We've got to sit down and try and come out with something better for the third Test."

The two batsmen [McMillan and Cairns] played very well and we gave away too many easy runs. I thought the target of 213 would be a difficult one, but we didn't bowl well enough today to give ourselves a chance.

SCOREBOARD FROM WELLINGTON

INDIA: First Innings 208 (M Azharuddin 103; S B Dool 7-65). Second Innings 356 (S R Tendulkar 113).

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 352 (D J Nash 88, D L Vettori 57, A Kumble 4-83). Second Innings

M D Bell c Dravid b Srinath 0
M J Home lbw b Kumble 31
S P Fleming b Kumble 17
N J Astle not out 1
C D McMillan not out 74
I A C Parore run out 1

P J Wiseman lbw b Srinath 0
C L Cairns c Jadeja b Srinath 61
D J Nash not out 4
Extras (b 9, lb 9, nb 8) 26
Total (6 wickets) 226
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-42, 3-61, 4-67, 5-74, 6-211

BOWLING: Srinath 19.3-1-82.3; Pragad 10.3-2-0; Tendulkar 3-0-8-0
Umpires: E A Nicholls (West Indies) and E A Watkins

Injury rules Walsh out of fourth Test

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

A HAMSTRING injury has left Courtney Walsh, the West Indies bowler, doubtful for the next Test match against South Africa, team officials said yesterday.

Walsh injured his left hamstring while fielding on Tuesday, the last day of the third Test. The series, which South Africa leads 3-0, moves to Cape Town on Saturday. Curtly Ambrose, who is suffering from fluid on the knee, could still play in the forthcoming match. "We're awaiting the doctor's report," Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, said. "Walsh, according to the doctor, has a slight tear of the hamstring. I doubt whether he will play."

West Indies are struggling in the series. They lost by four wickets at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg, by 178 runs at St George's in Port Elizabeth and by nine wickets in Durban.

Holloioakes take lead roles in one-day win

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Holloioake brothers each scored half-centuries as the England one-day team cruised to a 53-run win over Queensland Country at the Gabba yesterday. England scored 281 for seven from their 50 overs and then bowled the Country side out for 228.

Adam Holloioake struck 81 from 78 balls and Ben Holloioake, his younger brother, who has had a miserable tour with the Test squad, made 51 from 76 balls.

Adam Holloioake, who was overlooked for the Ashes series, came to the crease with his side struggling on 83 for four in the twentieth over. However, he punished a tiring attack, striking ten boundaries to all parts of the ground.

The best all-round performance came from Mark Alleyne. He chipped in with an unbeaten 52 off 49 balls, including a towering six over mid-wicket off the final ball of

the innings, and followed up by taking three for 31. Robert Croft took two for 28 in seven overs.

The Country side, made up of part-timers from rural Australia, reached 86 for one after 22 overs, but were unable to maintain the run-chase in the face of disciplined bowling and a damp outfield, despite the efforts of May, who scored 59, Todd, who made 42, and Rynne, who finished on 44 not out.

It was a satisfying win for England's specialist one-day players in the first warm-up match before the triangular series involving Australia and Sri Lanka. They will be joined by six of the players already in Australia for the Test series — Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick, Dean Headley, Darren Gough and Alan Mullally.

Scoreboard, page 49

SNOW REPORTS

Station	Depth (cm)		Conditions		Weather (C)	Last
	L	U	Rain	Offp		
Andorra	60	80	Good	Open	Varied	Snow -4 29/12
Austria	30	115	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 0 24/12
Kezobuhel	20	66	Icy	Artificial	Packed	Fine -5 22/12
Soil	25	75	Far	Icy	Varied	Fine -3 21/12
St Anton	30	280	Hard	Far	Packed	Sun -4 21/12
Canada						
Lake Louise	95	135	Good	Open	Powder	Fair -5 29/12
France						
Alpe d'Huez	35	150	Hard	Worn	Varied	Sun 0 24/12
Anglet	20	80	Hard	Worn	Varied	Sun 0 24/12
Flaine	48	150	Hard	Worn	Varied	Sun -2 24/12
La Plagne	45	100	Hard	Worn	Varied	Sun -2 24/12
Les Arcs	28	150	Good	Worn	Varied	Sun 0 24/12
Les Deux	10	80	Far	Icy	Varied	Sun 1 24/12
Méribel	26	100	Icy	Icy	Packed	Sun -1 24/12
Tignes	45	138	Good	Artificial	Packed	Sun 0 24/12
Val Thorens	50	120	Good	Worn	Varied	Fine 0 25/12
Val d'Isère	43	110	Good	Worn	Varied	Sun -2 24/12
Vannoy	20	90	Good	Hard	Packed	Fine 1 24/12
Italy						
Livigno	10	87	Hard	Artificial	Crusty	Cloud -4 20/12
Switzerland						
Crans Montana	5	220	Fair	Artificial	Varied	Fine -1 24/12
Davos	30	115	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -1 24/12
Garmisch	20	80	Good	Slushy	Packed	Sun -4 24/12
Klosters	30	115	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -2 24/12
Mametz	30	100	Icy	Slushy	Packed	Sun -4 24/12
Sass Pate	10	130	Far	Icy	Varied	Sun -4 24/12
St Moritz	10	50	Fair	Slushy	Packed	Sun -4 24/12
Verbier	15	150	Fair	Worn	Crusty	Fine 3 24/12
Villars	20	80	Far	Closed	Packed	Sun 0 24/12
Wengen	15	100	Far	Hard	Crusty	Sun -2 24/12
Zermatt	15	100	Far	Icy	Varied	Fair -2 24/12
United States						
Aspen	80	88	Good	Open	Packed	Cloud 0 29/12
Deer Valley	75	85	Good	Open	Packed	Fair -4 29/12

BOWLS

Rawcliffe in form on flat

By DAVID RHYS JONES

BARBARA RAWCLIFFE, a successful crown green player, who has played at the Newton Hall flat green indoor club in Blackpool since it was opened in 1986, hit top form on her home green yesterday when she won the Boddingtons International Classic tournament. "I must say I'm more than a bit chuffed," Rawcliffe said, after defeating three flat green internationals — Sandra McLeish, Di Hunt and Agnes Melrose — and dropping only 35 shots as she racked up 63 in her three matches.

Rawcliffe does not play flat green bowls in the summer months, preferring to play over the crown at Poulton-le-Fylde, but she says that she enjoys her bowls at Newton Hall, where she has learnt the tactics of the level-green game.

In the semi-final match with Hunt, a fellow crown green specialist and the winner of the Waterloo title in 1989, the year after Rawcliffe had done

HOCKEY

Kaur strike proves decisive

By CATHY HARRIS

THE North finally broke the Midlands and East domination of the title when Sandeep Kaur scored a 57th-minute winner over the Midlands in the decisive last match in the under-21 regional tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Needing only a draw to prevent the Midlands from retaining their title, the North drew first blood when Joanne Duff, their captain, scored after only 20sec. Duff, a final year student at Loughborough University who is being closely watched by the national selectors, was involved again in the seventeenth minute when her free-hit was deflected in by Clare Heskewood.

However, the Midlands responded and reduced the deficit a minute before the interval when Kate O'Riley made 10 mistakes from the penalty spot. Seven minutes after the restart, Sally Wright, the Midlands captain, levelled when

invented those who have invited to regional academy sessions and look at them over six weeks. I don't want to put pressure on anyone and let them think their future rests on one good performance in a trial situation. The qualities I'm looking for are athleticism and attitude — players who want to learn and develop."

Earlier, Joanne Bradburn made the most of some poor marking when she swept the ball in from close range ten minutes from time to steer the North to a 3-3 draw against the South.

Goals by Barbara Whalley and Charlotte Fisher gave the North a 2-0 cushion before Lucy Sheppard, the Trojans forward, pulled one back and added a superb second after the break, with Gemma Hobson hitting the third to put the South ahead.

RESULTS: South 3 North 3; Midlands 1 West 1; South 1 West 0; North 3 Midlands 2; 4, 3; South 2, 4; West 1.

RACING: **Trainer**

CHARLIE EVANS

TODAY'S RESULTS

12.50

1.20

1.50

David Pow
Why v



Making up the numbers that counted in 98

- 0 The number of penalties David Batty had taken before taking part in the penalty competition at the conclusion of England match against Argentina in the World Cup.
- 0 The number of times Ross Rebagliati, the Canadian gold medal winning snow boarder at the Winter Olympics, has smoked dope. He tested positive for marijuana because he was, he said, a victim of passive smoking. He kept the medal.
- 0 The amount in pounds of the total fine, and the amount in days of the total suspension imposed on Alan Shearer after he had been charged by the FA with misconduct after appearing to kick Neil Lennon of Leicester City in the face.
- 0 The number of times Glenn Hoddle had made England practice for penalty competitions.
- 0.031 The illegal reaction time in seconds of Falk Balkzer at the start of the 110 m hurdles at the World Cup in Johannesburg. This was ignored by the starter, allowing Balkzer to win. The error cost Colin Jackson first place and a prize of US\$50,000.
- 1 The number of wickets taken by English slow bowlers in the series against South Africa.
- 1 Cardinal number: the number of cardinals who called for the sacking of the Newcastle United directors Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd. Cardinal Basil Hume, for it was he, joined the chorus after the tabloid scandal broke.
- 1 The number of goals Brazil needed to score to beat Scotland 2-1. Scotland scored the other two goals themselves, including an own goal.
- 1 The number of tries conceded by England in successive rugby union internationals against Australia and South Africa.
- 2 The number of football matches actually won by England at the World Cup finals.
- 2 The number of managers running Liverpool Football Club at the start of the present season.
- 2 Number of victories in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond stakes by Swain.
- 3 Number of losing Super Bowls played by John Elway of Denver Broncos before winning this year.
- 3 The number of horses killed in the Grand National this year.
- 3 The number of successive victories by the jockey Olivier Peslier in the Arc.
- 3 Geoff Hurst's number: and why shouldn't we have it again? After all, the old boy was rightly

- knighted this year, 22 years after his heroics at Wembley.
- 3 Successive centuries scored by John Higgins at this year's snooker world championship, a record.
- 4 The number of men in the bob-sleigh as Britain won their only medal of the winter Games, taking bronze.
- 4 Number of years Michelle Smith was banned from swimming after she had been found guilty of tampering with a urine sample.
- 5 The number of seconds by which Haile Gebrselassie beat the 10,000 metres world record, finishing in 26 min 22.75 sec.
- 5 Number of Wimbledon singles titles won by Pete Sampras.
- 5 Number of winners of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe saddled by Andre Fabre, a record.
- 6 The number of visits to the middle made by the physiotherapist during the abandoned Test match between England and West Indies at Sabina Park, Jamaica.
- 6 Number of world darts championships won by Phil Taylor.
- 6 The number of teams to contest the Five Nations tournament in the year 2000. (Italy join in.)
- 6 The number of horses that finished the Grand National this year.
- 6 The number of times in a row that Cambridge have won the Boat Race.
- 6 The number of appearances made by Judy Oakes, British shot-putter, at the Commonwealth Games, also the number of medals. Three of them were gold.
- 7 Number of golf tournaments won by Lee Westwood this year (on three different continents).
- 7 Number of successive victories by Cambridge in the women's boat race.
- 8 The number of direct hits on the batsmen in the Sabina Park Test.
- 8 Number of years Stephen Hendry was ranked number one in snooker.
- 8 The number of world titles won by Steve Redgrave, after thecoxless four did its stuff at the world championships in Cologne.
- 8 Number of Wimbledon singles titles won by Helen Wills Moody, who died this year aged 91.
- 8 The number of days Jupp Heynckes survived as Real Madrid coach after leading the club to victory in the champions League.
- 9 The number of gold medals won by Great Britain at the European Athletic Championships,

Magic numbers hold an eternal significance for sport, figures that carry the whiff of greatness and the stench of defeat. Simon Barnes again invited suggestions for this year's magic numbers: here are some that reflect the joys of Michael Owen, Mark O'Meara and Eddie Jordan and the misfortunes of England's cricketers and Sunderland Football Club in 1998

- 10 Batting position of Pat Symcox, from which he made a century for South Africa.
- 10 The number of overs bowled before the abandonment of the Sabina Park test match (there was one no ball).
- 11 Number of years that had passed since England last won a major Test series, before they beat South Africa this summer.
- 12 The annual number of Learjet flights to which Kevin Brown, pitcher for the LA Dodgers, is entitled under the terms of his contract, in order to visit his family.
- 13 The length of time in years since Britain last had a woman in the fourth round at Wimbledon, until Sam Smith managed it this year.
- 13 Number of men who have taken 300 test wickets; see also 300.
- 13.75 Muralitharan's bowling average for Sri Lanka against England in the single test match.
- 15 Age at which the pouting ice skater, Tara Lipinski became the youngest ever Winter Games gold medal winner - 15 years and 255 days, to be precise.
- 16 The amount of runs sportingly conceded by Mark Taylor by bowling the last over of a picnic match. President's XI v England.
- 17 Position of the British team in the medals table at the world swimming championships this year.
- 17 Number of Henley titles won by Steve Redgrave.
- 17 Age at which Martina Hingis became the youngest ever player to retain a tennis Grand Slam title after she won the Australian Open this year.
- 18 Age at which Michael Owen became the youngest player this century to be selected for a football international, when he was picked for the match against Chile.
- 18 The number of months that Wickus van Heerden given was suspended from rugby union after biting an opponent's arm during a Super-12 game in Sydney. This was the second longest suspension ever.
- 18 The age at which Michael Owen became the youngest ever scorer for England, scoring the only goal in the game against Morocco. Owen was also knocked

- out in the course of the game.
- 20 Owen's England shirt number in the World Cup.
- 20 Odds to one at which High-Rise won the Derby.
- 20 The number of runs scored by England's last five batsmen in their effort to save the Adelaide test match.
- 25 The number of paces taken by Michael Owen from first touch to last, as he scored a certain goal for England against Argentina.
- 25 Odds to one, at which Cool Drawn won this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup.
- 34 The number of years Roy Evans had been with Liverpool Football Club before his departure this autumn.
- 35 The number of successive events - 110m, 220m, relays and long-jumps - won by the extraordinary Marion Jones. She lost her unbeaten record in the very last event of the season, when Heike Dreschler beat her in the long-jump.
- 38 Age of Flo-Jo at her death this year.
- 41 Age of Mark O'Meara when he won his first golfing major.
- 41 Age of Mark O'Meara when he won his second golfing major.
- 42 .5875 Strike-rate (balls per wicket) of Muralitharan against England in the single Test.
- 45 Number of seconds by which Ronaldo beat the old marathon world best, setting a time of 2 hr 6 min 5 sec.
- 46 The age at which Chris Barrie became the oldest rider to win Badminton - 46 years 80 days, in fact.
- 56 The number of minutes played in the Sabina Park Test match.
- 58 Age of David Tomis, oldest ever top ten finisher in the US Masters golf tournament.
- 60 Surprisingly, the highest Five Nations score in history, set as England beat Wales 60-26 this year.
- 62 The number of balls bowled in the Sabina Park Test match.
- 70 Number of home runs scored by Mark McGwire, setting a new record.
- 76 Number of points scored against England by Australia in a rugby union international this summer.
- 90 The number of points scored by Sunderland in the Nationwide first division - the greatest number of points scored by a team failing to win promotion.
- 100 Number of England fans arrested after riots in Marseilles at the World Cup.
- 110 The number of points scored by England against Netherlands in an otherwise pointless rugby union match.
- 127 Number of grands prix contested by Eddie Jordan, before Damon Hill gave him his first victory this summer.
- 127 The number of the years the FA Cup final has been free from the blight of the penalty shoot-out. It all changes next year.
- 141 The number of career knock-outs of the boxer Archie Moore, who died this year.
- 149 The speed in miles per hour of Greg Rusedzki's serve, the current record.
- 195 Ninth wicket stand for South Africa against Pakistan.
- 211 The number of years that the MCC has refused membership to women.
- 300 The total number of Test match wickets taken by Shane Warne after he bowled Jacques Kallis in Sydney.
- 300 The number of metres from the finish of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain at which the Toyota of Carlos Sainz burst into flames, costing him the world championship.
- 334 Number of runs scored against England by Mark Taylor against Pakistan. Taylor declared while still not out, denying himself the chance to beat Bradman, Sobers, Lara etc.
- 440 The bowling average of the English slow bowlers against South Africa (153 overs, 1 wicket, 440 runs).
- 918 The strike-rate (balls per wicket) achieved by English slow bowlers in the series against South Africa.
- 2,632 The number of successive games of baseball played by Cal Ripken. The "streak", which began when Ripken played for Baltimore Orioles on May 25th 1982, ended this year on September 20.
- 9,394 The number of MCC members who voted in favour of the admission of women to their club this autumn.
- 29,924 The record number of finishers at this year's London Marathon.
- 200,000 The value in pounds of the Le Mans motor car won by Derek Lawrence, a Sunday Telegraph golf writer, for a hole-in-one at a pro-am tournament.
- 2,000,000 The annual salary required by Rudi Gutler to continue as manager of Chelsea. This request was followed by his famous last word: "Neto".
- 2,500,000 The number of World Cup tickets delayed by the French postal strike.
- 10,000,000 The estimated cost to Sunderland of the penalty miss by Michael Gray, which allowed Charlton to be promoted to the Premier Division instead of themselves.
- 23,800,000 The number of people in this country who watched England play Argentina in the World Cup.
- 105,000,000 The amount over seven years to be earned by Kevin Brown, pitcher with the LA Dodgers. See also number 12.
- 623,000,000 The amount in pounds that Rupert Murdoch is prepared to pay for Manchester United.
- 2,000,000,000 Amount in US dollars paid annually for the television coverage of the National Basketball Association.

CHAMPAGNE WINNERS WHOSE NUMBERS HAVE COME UP

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Magic Numbers collection: to each listed below comes a glorious bottle of Taittinger champagne. Special thanks to Oddball Publishing for a preview of material from the essential Sports Yearbook 1999, which helped enormously. In the event of duplication, the decision of champagne-worthiness was made on such criteria as multiplicity of entry, earliness of arrival and, in desperation, first from the hat. Condolences to those who lost on the nod. Congratulations and fizz to: Terence Hackett, M J Clarke, P J Brittain, H O Johnson, Peter Magg, G T Wilson, T H Chaloner, David Lilley, The Rev'd Graham Blacktop, M Williams, Stephen S Wilson, Andrew Brown, Graham Smith, C J Owen, Richard I Brownutt, P Nicholls, D Powell, Ross Connolly, B Dean, Mike Claughton.

Technical note: you can't e-mail champagne. If those correspondents who failed to supply a postal address would remedy the defect, the fizz will follow!



WHENTON
ME
RCME
CRICKET
WATERHOUSE
BIG BANG
Basing

David Powell on little-known British world champions who deserve wider acclaim

Why won't BBC listen to the archers?

The British will win... is the essential difference, Graham Lynn suggested. He meant lack of it, surely? Another Ashes defeat, the home nations out of the World Cup before the quarter-finals and still we wait for a Wimbledon champion. The Formula One drivers' title went to a Finn, the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award to Michael Owen, who won nothing. Among the popular and well-publicised sports, only Great Britain's athletes had a glorious year.



Lovell is the FITA women's recurve barebow world champion, but her request to appear on the BBC Sports Review of the Year was turned down

Lynn was insistent, though: "It is the British will to win," he said. "It may not be evident in our major sports, but it certainly is in our minor sports. I was watching the BBC Sports Review thinking 'Where are all our champions? The public needs to know these people are there. When the national anthem is played and the Union Jack is raised, the feeling is the same for a world champion in a minor sport as it is for some body winning an Olympic medal.'"

As secretary of the British Model Flying Association, with its 28,500 members and 610 clubs, Lynn is part of a sport in which British is best. The list is substantial. Here is a selection: archery, karate, marathon canoeing, triathlon, croquet, clay pigeon shooting, ultra running, hovering and powerboating. The unusual sports are singing in chorus: We Are The Champions.

Lottery funding? Who needs it? Steve Partridge is not saying that it would not be welcome, but as long as he has to pay from his own pocket to keep the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) world recurve barebow title in Britain, he will do so. To win it in 1998 he spent £1,500 to go to Washington. To retain it in Auckland in 1998, he forked out another £1,500. Partridge, 45, from Warwick, is a teacher of the deaf and it is on deaf ears that his pleas for sponsorship have fallen. Other than a bow sponsor, he has suffered only the arrows of rejection. "The best I have received was a £10 voucher from a clothing company," Partridge said. "At least they

sent something, as opposed to the standard letter saying they could not help." Not only can Britain boast William Tell but Willemena Tell too. Trish Lovell is the Federation Internationale de Tir a l'Arc (FITA) women's recurve barebow world champion. In fact, Britain has a pair of William Tells: Jonathan Shales is the FITA men's recurve barebow champion. This is field archery, distinct from the Olympic discipline of target archery. In field archery, competitors dash around the country-

side shooting a course of targets over varied terrain. "It could be open field, wooded, over water, uphill or downhill," Partridge said. "You shoot over a variety of distances, from six to 80 yards." Partridge likens his sport to playing a golf course. Though Partridge is a world champion under a separate governing body from the one with which Shales and Lovell compete, they are united in being British. Lovell, 46, from Sittingbourne, wanted to shoot rifles, but, newly married, could

not afford it. "A girl I worked with said she had just tried archery, why did I not have a go?" That was 25 years ago and her victory in Oberurg, Austria, is the pinnacle so far. "The world title was achieved at 6,000ft, so the altitude was quite debilitating," Lovell said. "You have to train more for field archery than for Olympic because you are not standing on a flat field. Normally, I train three times a week." An electron microscopy technician - "I work in a pathology lab looking inside cancer

cells" - Lovell phoned the BBC and asked to appear on Sports Review. No thanks, came the reply. British competitors also hold the team world title, as they do in model flying. Model flying is not a sport in which success can be instant. "We have all been doing it competitively for about 30 years," Gordon Isles, one of the team of three that took the title in Kiev, said. "Until you have been doing it for 20-odd years, you do not know what questions to ask, never mind

what the answers are. You not only have to fly, you have to learn how to build - we build our own models - and you have to learn about structures, engineering, aerodynamics." But, like darts, the question is: is it sport and do they see themselves as sportsmen? "We certainly do," Isles said. "If you examined our heart-rate at the end, you would know why." Isles competes in control line flying. "An explosive class," he said. "The object is to cover one kilometre in circular flight - and there are nine

RUGBY LEAGUE

Return of Harris adds steel to Rhinos

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JUSTYN HARRIS, the winner of the Man of Steel award last season, resumes at full back tomorrow for Leeds Rhinos, who have re-introduced several of their leading players for the Tetley's Challenge match against Castleford Tigers at Headingley.

Harris, who had a groin injury, missed the Boxing Day defeat of Halifax Blue Sox by a side based largely players from the Academy team. The Leeds captain is one of seven changes for the visit of Castleford, including the return of three overseas players - Brad Gooden, Marc Glanville and Tony Kemp, who is on the bench.

Francis Cummins, Harris's Great Britain colleague, is restored to the right wing, while Wendell Sailor, of Australia, is back on the left flank for his second and final guest appearance for the Rhinos, 48 hours before he switches codes again to play for Leeds Tykes at Coventry in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division.

"I thought I might get a day off Sunday, but Phil Davies [the Tykes director of rugby] wanted me and I'm only too happy to play both games," Sailor said.

Ryan Sheridan returns at half back for the Rhinos to partner Karl Pratt, their new signing. "I was pleased with the performance against Halifax, but the Castleford match is an opportunity to have a look at the other senior players in the squad," Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, said. Murray has kept faith at loose forward with Kevin Sinfield, 18, who captained the Leeds and Great Britain Academy sides last season.

Bobbie Goulding has recovered from a groin operation to play tomorrow for Huddersfield Giants, whose new coach, Malcolm Reilly, will introduce John Bentley, Nigel Wright, Jim Lenihan, Andrew Tangata-Toa and Ian Pickavance, his new signings, at home against Halifax.

WORLD SPORTS RANKINGS 1998

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Name. Includes categories for MEN and WOMEN. Top men: P Gade (Den), H K Yong (Mal), G Chen (Chi).

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Woods leading the field

Collated by Stephen McCormack

Clubs and officials remain divided over the controversy plaguing the FA Carling Premiership

Players see red over excess of Christmas cards

By ROB HUGHES

SO THIS is the season of goodwill? Humbug. Each footballing day of Christmas brought red cards that mean, instead of seeing out 1998 in celebration of the art and enduring competitive spirit that fills stadiums at ever-increasing prices, we are left pondering the inconsistencies of refereeing.

It started with the nonsensical dismissal of Michael Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, at Edwode Park on Boxing Day, a decision since revoked by Dermot Gallagher. Fine, the referee was man enough to admit his mistake, but saying sorry does not restore three potentially decisive championship points to Villa.

fence — and two previous wretched fouls, on Andy Cole and Nicky Butt — did not entitle him to remain on the field.

Of course, managers shouted the odds. Alex Ferguson, of Manchester United, went so far as to say the blame lies with Philip Don, the FA Premier League referees' officer who, to Ferguson's mind, appears to have changed all aspects of rule on the pitch. "Perhaps it is his vision of football

'The players themselves do the referees no favours by indulging in play-acting'

we are seeing and nobody else's," Ferguson said.

Predictably, Don countered by insisting that he is merely the instrument of the law, trying to carry out the rules as laid down by Fifa, the world governing body. It might have helped, Don implied, if Ferguson had attended the meeting that the FA Premier League called with managers to try to spell out changes in the laws at the start of the season.

The nub of the situation is that it is not Don's Law we are following but Blatter's Law. Sepp Blatter, before he became Fifa president, had prompted a tightening of the rule of law with one just cause: to eliminate the tackle from behind that assails an opponent. Blatter was moved to this by the example of Marco van Basten, arguably the finest goalscorer in the game, being hacked into premature retirement by cynical boots to his heels.

Fifa is satisfied that not one player was made to limp out of World Cup 98 through this heinous foul, for which the red card was made mandatory because Blatter and his advisers were not convinced referees could be trusted to discriminate between accidental and intentional foul play. That is a dreadful indictment of men who give up their time and career prospects to control millionaire players. Yet, to judge from this week, it might seem to be justified still.

The horrendous foul from behind by Eddie Youds, the Charlton Athletic defender, on Bergkamp was admonished only by a yellow card from Uriah Rennie, who is widely held to be England's most imposing referee. The hack that ended McManaman's comeback against Newcastle United also brought nothing but a caution for Dieter Hamann, though he was later sent off for a second bookable offence.

At White Hart Lane on Monday, Les Ferdinand was not even warned for leading with his elbow into the Everton goalkeeper's face, yet both Patrick Vieira and Paulo Wanchope were sent off in other games for reckless use of their arms. The players themselves do the referees no favours. How does the Professional Footballers' Association condone the play-acting by Neil Redfern, pretending that he was hit in the face when clearly Vieira's elbow struck him, if anywhere, near the shoulder?

Arsene Wenger is going through his familiar routine, practised through virtually all the 18 red cards incurred during his 2½-season tenure as Arsenal manager, of pleading that his player has been misjudged. Similarly, Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, swears that Wanchope was not trying to punch anybody, merely trying to free himself from the foul tackle by Andy Townsend.

Smith's plea might have had greater credence had he been at the match and not home nursing the flu and had Steve McClaren, his assistant, not said at the time: "Paulo



By deciding not to send off Leboeuf, Riley failed to enforce the letter of the law

threw a couple of punches. That's violent conduct and I've no qualms with him being sent off despite the hysteria that followed."

It might seem that players and managers do little by words to atone for their deeds. But do referees? Mike Riley, who declined to send off Leboeuf, insisted yesterday: "I don't believe the contact war-

ranted further action. I considered the free kick sufficient." Then why did he draw attention to himself to Leboeuf and to the controversy by beckoning the offender to him and administering a protracted lecture? It was a tackle from behind, it stopped an opponent threatening to score and the book says that that is a mandatory yellow card.

In March, the Premier League is expected to name referees for a trial period of full-time paid officials. It is humbling to suggest that putting their day jobs on the line will improve their vision and their application of strict laws — and humbug to expect human beings to react with absolute consistency to every split-second misdemeanour.

Reed cautions against rush to judgment

Russell Kempson hears a leading referee defend his colleagues

Alex Ferguson's red face turns deep crimson, Gordon Strachan's ginger dome almost glows and Joe Kinnear's portly frame quivers. Rage, apoplexy, injustice. When the esteemed managers in the FA Carling Premiership vent their spleens, there is usually only one target: the referee.

Rarely is it the fault of the player. If he makes a mistake, he was fouled or the goal was offside; if he is cautioned, the challenge was simply mistimed; and if he is sent off, heaven forbid, he was provoked beyond belief. Look at it from any angle — he was not to blame.

But the referee? Ah, yes. He never kept up with play. He showed no authority, no consistency with the players. He acted like a little Hitler, playing to the cameras. Ferguson, Strachan, Kinnear et al drone on and on. Blah, blah, blah.

Mike Reed has crossed their paths many times since the inception of the FA Premier League in 1992 and has endured the most damning criticism for his strict style of refereeing. In the unofficial rankings, lauded by most of his colleagues, he leads the way this season with 68 bookings and four dismissals from 13 matches.

"That table amuses me more than anything else," he said. "I'm supposed to be the hardliner, the toughest ref about, but it doesn't worry me in the slightest. All I strive for is consistency, whether it is yesterday, today or tomorrow, and as far as I'm concerned I'm doing my job. People that matter tell me that I'm consistent and that's fine."

Reed, 47, an area supervisor with an insurance firm in Birmingham, is in his penultimate season before the door of retirement is opened for him. He has seen many changes since joining the Football League as a linesman in 1982, none more than the blanket television exposure that now highlights a referee's every flaw, time and again, in glorious technicolour.

He accepts gladly the responsibility heaped on part-time shoulders, yet feels that managers should share the burden. He also questions their knowledge of a rule-book that grows increasingly more complex to administer in the highly charged atmosphere of the FA Carling Premiership.

"Our job gets more difficult every year, mostly because of the TV coverage," he said. "Hardly a week goes by without some manager having a go. I don't have any trouble with that. It's their right, their

opinion, and I respect that. The only thing I ask is are they fully conversant with the laws of the game?"

Reed rejects the notion that the relationship between players and officials has deteriorated. "Referees and players are depicted as enemies, but that's just not true," he said. "I still try to have a laugh and a joke with them. I'll quite often shake their hands in the tunnel or during the warm-up and if I see one I know in the street I'll go up and have a chat. There's not a problem."

He is more cautious, though, since Paul Alcock, his close friend, was pushed over by Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday forward, after he had dismissed him at Hillsborough three months ago. Reed took charge of the game between Wednesday and Leicester City on Boxing



Reed: familiar target

Day, the game in which Di Canio was supposed to return from suspension before deciding to sulk in Italy.

Reed now stands away from players when he is talking to them. "I used to get quite close, I'd sometimes even whisper in their ear, but not any more," he said. "I keep two or three yards away and I've noticed that some of the other referees are doing that as well."

As the clock winds down on Reed's career, he can ponder the introduction of professional referees. It will not happen until next season, possibly the year after, but happen it will. Yet will it improve the referees' lot? Will it give the angry manager a greater appreciation of the role of the £400-a-match arbiter of fair play?

"I'm not sure," Reed said. "You will still have only that split-second to make your decision. It was a hobby, but it is a professional hobby and every referee is professional in his own way. Like the players, we are only human."



Leboeuf was praised for his honesty, but the defender should not have been allowed to stay on the field

McGinlay savours one last shot at the big guns

By MEL WEBB

BANDS of case-hardened steel will lighten around chests; knees and viscera will be turned to jelly; nausea will be an unbidded and unwanted visitor. They will not want to be there, yet there will be nowhere they would rather be.

It is a feeling that will afflict dozens of footballers who spend their lives playing in small-beer football when they trot out on Saturday to face teams and players who, until now, have been only small, flickering images on television screens. Quite suddenly, those fantasy figures will be turned



FA CUP

into flesh and blood. They are the big boys. There will be fear abroad. This is the FA Cup.

It will be thus when Oldham Athletic leave their dressing-room and enter an arena that they normally they call their own — but this time it will be different. The atmosphere will be hostile, menacing, but the hostility and men-

ace will not be aimed at them from their own people on the terraces, but from the 11 blue-clad warriors at the other end. Oldham are playing Chelsea in the third round. This, surely, is slingshot against cannon.

For most of the 11 men who will represent the struggling Nationwide League second division side against Gianluca Vialli's thoroughbreds, it will be, beyond doubt, the biggest game of their lives. For two of their number, however, it will be like paradise regained. Even so, John Sheridan and John McGinlay, modest men both, would recoil in horror at the suggestion that they are among artisans.

When Sheridan and McGinlay played together at Bolton Wanderers in the FA Carling Premiership, a game against Chelsea was just another match. Now they have gravitated to humbler pastures and, unexpectedly, are facing the might of West London again.

In his pomp, McGinlay was a feared striker who played in nearly 250 games for Bolton in both first division and Premiership, scored 118 goals and played 13 times for Scotland. Even as he passed through his early thirties, he was still one of the best forwards that Scotland could boast and, had it not been for an Achilles tendon injury, might well have been a member of the squad selected by Craig Brown, the Scotland coach, for France 98.

The injury did more than scupper his World Cup chances, for, when Bolton were promoted into the Premiership, Colin Todd, the manager, bought new forwards. It was to be the end for McGinlay. "Having bought them, Colin then had to play them and I



McGinlay won 13 caps for Scotland but missed the World Cup finals because of injury

began to wonder if I would ever get a regular game again," McGinlay said. "I felt I needed to be in the side and to be seen scoring goals if I was to have a chance with Scotland. So I spoke to the manager and the chairman, neither of whom wanted me to leave,

but I felt that if I didn't give it a go, it might be something I'd regret for the rest of my life."

With deep regrets, McGinlay negotiated a free transfer from the club and signed for Bradford City. It was a move that led to the unhappiest period of his career. The injury got

worse, he hardly played and he had an operation on the tendon. The Scotland dream was over and so might have been his playing career, too.

Discussions with Paul Jewell, who had taken over as Bradford manager from Chris Kamara, resulted in another

free. Now McGinlay was out on a limb. At 34, he still had the hunger to play, but he could not find anybody to play for. Enter Andy Ritchie.

"Andy phoned me up out of the blue one Thursday and told me he would like me to go to play for him and he wanted me in the team on the Saturday," McGinlay said. "I told him that I wasn't 100 per cent fit but he persisted, so, of course, I went and played." It was not a game to write home about, a goalless draw with Wycombe Wanderers, but McGinlay was encouraged enough to agree to carry on playing for the club.

Since then, he has been on a week-by-week agreement, but, by the time that he faces Chelsea on Saturday, he should have signed a more permanent contract. He has played half-a-dozen games for Oldham, including both FA Cup games against Brentford in the second round. He scored the equaliser from a penalty in the first game and netted the first goal in the replay at Brentford; already, he has earned his corn for his new club.

He goes into the game against Chelsea with eyes wide open. "If we were to play as well as we can, we still wouldn't beat them — they're a fantastic side," he said. "I know what is likely to happen, but if they come with the wrong attitude and don't get involved, then who knows?"

It should not happen. In all probability, it will not happen, and McGinlay knows it. It sounds suspiciously like whistling in the wind, but McGinlay, the born-again footballer, has been there before. However temporarily, he is back in the big time — and he is loving every last second of it.

Burton in frame for Derby

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DEON BURTON, who ends a spell on loan at Barnsley tomorrow, is likely to make a rapid return to the Derby County first team for their FA Cup third-round tie away to Plymouth on Saturday. The Jamaica forward is needed because up to eight members of the Derby squad are either unavailable or doubtful.

Paulo Wanchope and Darryl Powell are both serving a one-match ban, having picked up five bookings this season. Francesco Baisano may also miss out after suffering a recurrence of a calf injury. Malcolm Christie, a young striker who is yet to appear for the Derby first XI, is cup-tied. Burton could therefore partner Dean Sturridge in attack.

Derby are also stretched in defence, with a long-standing ankle problem still afflicting Igor Stimac, their captain and sweeper. Rory Delap, Stefan Schmoor and Tony Dorico, all of whom have played as wing backs this season, are suffering, respectively, knee, ankle and hamstring injuries. All are believed to be doubtful.

Denis Smith, the West Bromwich Albion manager, expects Lee Hughes to be fit for the FA Cup third-round tie away to Bournemouth on Saturday. Hughes, 22, who is the country's leading goalscorer with 26 goals so far this season, suffered a head injury when he slipped on ice on Monday night. He suffered cuts to his mouth and arm and was detained in hospital as a precaution.

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FOOTBALL

Chelsea need goals to make Bates's numbers add up

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

A PAD of paper was proffered, so Ken Bates took up a pen. In less than a minute, the Chelsea chairman had jotted down 24 of his side's results last season and compared them with what Gianluca Vialli has achieved this time around. By his reckoning, Chelsea are on target to finish 14 points better off than last season with a total of 77 that may just be enough to bring them the title.

Part of his calculations, of course, included the fact that Chelsea had taken two points from their league meetings with Manchester United this season, whereas last season it was only one. If there was a touch of regret that the goalless draw at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday night should have been a comfortable victory, there was optimism, too, about the way that Chelsea had outplayed their visitors.

A win for Chelsea in West London would have acted as a fortnight declaration of intent. It would have stamped their authority on the championship race and helped them to believe that this really could be their year after more than four decades trying in vain to win the title. That Bates was left ruing missed opportunities yesterday morning, though, is a measure of the expectations that he has built into his club.

"It was a bad result for us on Tuesday night because we should have won," he said. "We had two world-class strikers on the pitch last night in Gianfranco Zola and Tore Andre Flo and they both had had even an ordinary game, we would have been two or three-nil up at half-time. You can't expect the top players to perform all the time. We lost against them at Stamford Bridge last year and this time we have drawn. When Fergie [Alex Ferguson, the United manager] says that they were relieved to get a point, that will do for us."

"Villa are still top, but whether they last really depends on the strength of their reserves. Traditionally, the second half of the season is much harder because you have got your cup matches and you have got bad weather and postponements and fixture congestion. Villa have got to play Liverpool away, Arsenal away, Manchester United away. It just depends on their strength when they have to cope with injuries and suspensions.

The main threat to us has got to be United. It just depends how preoccupied they are with the European Cup. In Chelsea we have often been accused of over-complicating their build-up, of lacking the almost primitive instinct for goal that other sides seem to possess, but their player-coach was happy to pin his faith in Zola and in his side's patient approach to the game.

Manchester United's shadow and this year we will find out how good we are." If Bates knows from long experience what is needed to compete for the championship, Vialli was insisting that despite the glut of missed chances and the fact Chelsea have lost Gustavo Poyet, their leading scorer, and Pierluigi Casiraghi, their first-choice centre forward, to long-term injuries, that they still have the attacking potency to seize their chance.

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Where managers are concerned, the need to insist upon their dedication rarely arises, but Gullit's preference for keeping his family home in Amsterdam invites the accusation that he is a dilettante, particularly when results are unsatisfactory. His team have been beaten 3-0 by Leeds United and 4-2 by Liverpool in their past two games. Newcastle supporters can never have guessed that their anxieties would one day include the possibility of Schiphol airport being fogbound.

The club argues that the manager's lifestyle does not suit Gullit's contribution. Fredy Shepperd, the chairman, said yesterday that the manager had been given no more time off than Kevin Keegan and Kenny Dalglish, his predecessors. He also railed against reports that hotel bills for Gullit will cost Newcastle £200,000 a year.

Gullit raised the possibility of legal action if allegations continue and complained that his family had been harassed. All the same, the manager's decision that there was no suitable residence in the North East is taken as an insult to the area by some supporters.

Such sensitivities matter all the more in a period of mediocrity and uncertainty. Newcastle may be taken over by NTL, the cable company, later this year. Solid form from the team would bring some welcome stability and Domi follows Duncan Ferguson to become Gullit's second signing. The Dutchman praised the full back's clever positional play.

Newcastle have agreed an initial fee of £3.25 million and a further £750,000 will follow if the France youth international makes sufficient appearances. In his homeland, however, the high valuation of Domi has given rise to wonderment. The player has barely featured in Paris Saint-Germain's plans this season.

Gullit has never lacked the confidence to back his own assessment. Since taking the post at St James' Park, he has raised £15 million by selling four players, including the locally-born Steve Watson, who was highly popular. Ferguson cost £8 million, and even after the purchase of Domi, Gullit has not yet reached the stage of needing fresh funds from his employers.

The French defender will have every opportunity to demonstrate his worth. Domi is ineligible for Saturday's FA Cup encounter with Crystal Palace, but is expected to face the powerful Chelsea side at St James' Park in the FA Carling Premiership.

Behind him in second place — and still on course to entrench his overall race lead by the finish of leg two at Auckland — Golding squeezed just 51 miles out of Team Group 1. "Sadly, it's a case of grinding teeth and bearing it," he said. "What's really irksome is that we sailed so fast across the Southern Ocean, only to be foiled by the last few hundred miles."

The next couple of days will not only be frustrating from a racing point of view, but also dangerous. Going against the top and down the eastern side of North Island in light weather will mean long hours without sleep for the skippers in what are increasingly busy waters. It was at this stage in the last running of this race four years ago that Jean-Luc van den Heede sailed his boat on to the beach, as he neared what was then the leg finish at Sydney.

Yesterday, with just 375 miles to race, Soldini's margin over Golding was still a comfortable 236 miles. There was then a further gap of 140 miles to Marc Thiercelin, in Somewhere, who had Austria, in PRB, just 20 miles astern. Hall was a further 500 miles back in fifth place, in Garmore. In Class 2, J. P. Mouligne, of France, is leading, in Cry Vial, 430 miles ahead of Hall and 480 miles ahead of Mike Garside, in Magellan Alpha.



Domi, left, was introduced to the media by Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, at St James' Park yesterday

Gullit stakes £4m on full back

By Kevin McCarran

Didier Domi may not be able to make his debut for Newcastle United until January 9, but he is already giving important service to Ruud Gullit, the manager. The announcement that the left back, 20, has been signed from Paris Saint-Germain in a deal that could ultimately cost £4 million, was an element in the attempt to present Gullit as a man dynamically committed to the club's cause.

Where managers are concerned, the need to insist upon their dedication rarely arises, but Gullit's preference for keeping his family home in Amsterdam invites the accusation that he is a dilettante, particularly when results are unsatisfactory. His team have been beaten 3-0 by Leeds United and 4-2 by Liverpool in their past two games. Newcastle supporters can never have guessed that their anxieties would one day include the possibility of Schiphol airport being fogbound.

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Kippe suits Liverpool's taste

By Our Sports Staff

Frode Kippe, the Norwegian defender, looks likely to join Liverpool next week in a move that could eventually cost the Anfield club £2 million. The centre back, 19, had been about to join Rangers after Liverpool pulled out of the deal, but Lillestrøm, where he is at present, have accepted an initial £700,000 down payment.

Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has given Salemitana, the Serie A team, 48 hours to decide whether to accept Liverpool's £2.6 million bid for Rigobert Song, the Cameroon defender.

Christophe Dugarry, the Marseille forward, has turned down a move to Juventus. The Italian side were reported to have offered around £5 million for Dugarry as Marcello Lippi, the coach, seeks a replacement for Alessandro Del Piero, who is sidelined with a long-term injury.

Coventry City have signed Morton Hyldgaard, the Danish goalkeeper, for £200,000 and agreed a loan deal for Stefano Giacomini, the Venezia centre forward.

Hartlepool United are to try to sign Peter Beardsley. The former England international has been contacted by the Nationwide League third division club after being released by Fulham.

Burley have broken their transfer record by re-signing Steve Davis from Luton Town for £750,000.

White: James Plaskett Black: Angus Dunnington Hampstead 1998

SAILING

Skippers can only worry for run-in

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE finale of leg two of the Around Alone Race is turning out to be a nail-biting and exhausting last few hundred miles for the leading skippers as they make their way slowly towards the top of New Zealand's North Island, desperately trying to hang on to gains ground out in the Southern Ocean.

In this situation, the skippers who find themselves behind, such as Isabelle Autissier, of France, and Josh Hall, of Great Britain, have everything to gain, while those ahead, Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, and Mike Golding, of Britain, can only lose. Soldini, in FILA, went to windward yesterday in the Tasman Sea in the lightest of airs, but managed only 49 miles in 12 hours.

Behind him in second place — and still on course to entrench his overall race lead by the finish of leg two at Auckland — Golding squeezed just 51 miles out of Team Group 1. "Sadly, it's a case of grinding teeth and bearing it," he said. "What's really irksome is that we sailed so fast across the Southern Ocean, only to be foiled by the last few hundred miles."

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TOP FIVE table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

Table with columns for Player, Goals, Assists, etc.

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FOR THE RECORD

FOR THE RECORD table with columns for Sport, Event, Result

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES section containing various notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES section containing various notices

WORD-WATCHING

WORD-WATCHING section with word puzzles

WINNING MOVE

WINNING MOVE section with chess puzzles

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE advertisement

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This hand is from the 1998 Lederer Memorial Trophy...

Bridge hand diagram showing cards and suits

Contract: Two Clubs by South. Lead: ace of diamonds.

Crouch led the ace of diamonds and switched to the six king and ace...

Do you see anything better the defence could have done? They had to play trumps at some stage...

The Times Book of Bridge 2 featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns...

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE ON CHESS advertisement

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Dark horse The Hastings Premier tournament is now underway...

Chess board diagram showing a game position

White: James Plaskett Black: Angus Dunnington Hampstead 1998

White: James Plaskett Black: Angus Dunnington Hampstead 1998

White: James Plaskett Black: Angus Dunnington Hampstead 1998

White: James Plaskett Black: Angus Dunnington Hampstead 1998

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Acting heavyweights deliver a knockout

The heavyweight division of British acting may not meet the standards of 'bankability' set by the Hollywood moguls, but they have proved to be known as eccentrics, but never mind the wealth, the quality. Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay put on a masterpiece last night, though happily not even their reputations swamped the story.

That danger is more apparent with Finney than with Courtenay. Whereas the former speaks from a large frame suspended beneath impressive jaws, Courtenay is a more different individual, physically and otherwise. Playing opposite Finney, he resembles a vegetarian, who has inadvertently wandered into a steakhouse.

They were very much cast with type in last night's *Rather English Marriage* (BBC2). Angela Lambert's novel was adapted for the screen by Andrew Davies, whose ubiquity in television screen-

play writing is such that his credit is kept on a length of videotape that gets passed around editing suites as required.

A Rather English Marriage is essentially about three couples, albeit that two of the people involved, the wife of Reginald Courtenay, Jerry (Finney) and Roy Southgate (Courtenay), are dead. Indeed, the two men, one a former fighter pilot, the other a former milkman, meet for the first time at the hospital where their wives lie dying.

Reggie is an upper-class stereotype, most of his emotions either buried, disguised or conveyed bric-a-brac and briefly as if forming the head teacher's comments at the end of a school report: "Best wife a chap ever had." Roy is more openly troubled. Their unlikely alliance is formed when Roy agrees to cook and clean for Reggie. The off-bat relationship is clear from day one: "I'll call you Southgate, you can call me squad-leader."

Roy was in the Pioneer Corps, a calling no less noble for being humble. He regards the likes of Reggie with amusement: "I've always wondered who they were, these blokes who really enjoyed the war." The pair have in common the fact that they are lost without their wives, even if Reggie, a man with a daring eye, is not likely to admit it.

There is a wonderfully comic moment at his wife's funeral when someone asks about arrangements for drinks afterwards and Reggie announces that nothing has been arranged: his wife always looked after that sort of thing. And a wonderfully moving moment just afterwards, when Reggie arrives home and calls out his wife's name and name in his past: Reggie has caused the death of his daughter by a moment of carelessness and Roy's son is in prison, where he later commits

suicide. The plot thickens with the arrival in Reggie's life of Liz (Joanna Lumley), a down-on-her-luck boutique owner, but that unfulfilled relationship plays second fiddle to the core of the piece, which is the interplay between Reggie and Roy and how it exposes each of their past lives.

Of course literature and drama have explored such relationships a hundred times, so the raw

structure was humdrum, a word that does not apply to any other facet: superb acting, a script without a syllable out of place and a fine piece of directing by Paul Seed, who controlled the rhythm with a deft touch.

And so we leave the sublime and turn to the car billy. The dread word "cut" appears on the publicity for *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (BBC2), which opened last night with a feature-length episode as a way of introducing a new series. If this is a cult, I shall not be leaving home to join it, or staying at home to watch it. Just about the entire story is in the title, but I feel guilty about seeming lazy, so: *Buffy* moves from Los Angeles to a new high school in Sunnydale, but she's still California so naturally everyone is nuts.

Buffy hopes to escape her vampire-slaying past, but earlier on the director drops an incredibly subtle hint that her past may catch

up with her when a wooden stake falls out of her school bag. This immediately attracts attention because most Californian schoolbags contain hypodermics and sawn-off shotguns.

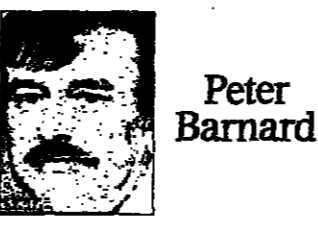
Anyway, there is a lot of rushing around the school, which conveniently seems to have something resembling a dungeon and something else resembling a crypt: with all the extra money for education, I expect that David Blunkin will be putting one of each into Holland Park Comprehensive. There is also a lot of screaming by nubile 16-year-olds in scoop necks. If *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* was a horse it would be by *Baywatch* out of *Neighbours*.

Paris of the script were quite amusing (17 first vampires, now witches. No wonder you can still afford a house in Sunnydale). But for the most part *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is pure hocus-pocus, a

juvenile *X-Files* without the same degree of credibility.

Those who watched *Buffy* missed most of the concluding part of *The Echo* (BBC1), but don't worry about it: if you got it right all the time, think how boring you would be. If you saw part one of *The Echo* but missed the conclusion, well, you remember that dead tramp in Amanda Powell's garage? People thought it was his missing husband and that she had killed him. A pretty girl like her, kill a man and leave him in the garage? Unthinkable. What she actually did was kill her husband and throw him in the river. And when she got her strength back from that she killed that flashy bloke who worked in the City of London and put him in the same garage where the tramp had been found. I got a bit tired trying to work out who the tramp was but it was worth the effort. One night, two out of three for drama. Not bad.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

- BBC1**
- 7.00am News; Weather (T) (5194885)
 - 7.10am Children's BBC: Pudding Peas (5728219), 7.15 Teletubbies (5722581), 7.30 VeggieTales: Horton Hears a Who! (1674949), 8.00am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 8.30am The Muppet Show: The Muppet Movie (5728219), 8.50am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 9.00am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 9.25am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 9.50am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 10.00am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 10.30am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 11.00am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 11.30am News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 12.00pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 12.30pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 1.00pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 1.15pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 1.40pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 1.55pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 2.00pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 2.15pm News; Weather; The Day After Tomorrow (5728219), 2.30pm News; 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BASKETBALL 44 Sheffield Hatters brimming over with confidence

SPORT

MAGIC NUMBERS 46

Figures that add up to a year to remember



THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 1998

Pole position for Williams in New Year Honours



Sir Frank Williams: motor racing's first knight

MAVERICKS dominate the sporting New Year Honours, which include a knighthood for Frank Williams, whose 30 years in Formula One have combined ruthlessness with a magnificent obsession that has brought nine constructors' championships, seven individual driver's titles and now the legend, 'Sir Frank'.

former England captain, Stuart Pearce, 36, both appointed MBE. In 1972, the year that Denise Lewis, the European and Commonwealth heptathlon gold medal-winner, who is appointed MBE, was born, Sir Frank Williams, now 56, entered Formula One. From humble origins and a business operated from a telephone box, Frank Williams Racing won its first grand prix in 1979 and the Australian, Alan Jones, took the world championship the next season.

and down the pit-road looking for a replacement. The hard-man image has another side. The trials of life are easily put in to perspective by the accident in 1986, while he was testing one of his cars, that left him paralysed below the neck and confined to a wheelchair, and the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in 1994, during the Brazilian's third drive for Williams.

An MBE capped a memorable year for Lewis, the golden girl of British athletics, who heads a female list that includes Pat Smith, the former deputy chief executive of the Football Association, and Sally Stapleford, president of the National Ice Skating Association and a five-time British women's figure skating champion, who are appointed OBE.

es to disadvantaged young people. Fraser, who made his 46th Test appearance in the defeat of Australia, said: 'I was hoping to make much more of a contribution here, but getting the MBE makes up for that a little. I'm really chuffed.'

and England footballer-turned-pundit, in recognition of his unpaid work for the Sports Council. Captain Tim Forster, the three-time Grand National-winning trainer, who has retired after a 35-year career, is appointed OBE for his achievements in horse racing.

Full honours, pages 8-9

Leg spinner returns in Sydney Wheel spins full circle for Warne

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

THE depth of Australia's shock became clear yesterday, with a dramatic reaction to the defeat they had regarded as inconceivable. Shane Warne, England's nemesis over three previous Ashes series, has been unexpectedly recalled to make sure that this one does not slip away at the last.

money from a bookmaker and he was fretfully unsure of his future, on and off the field. Like many a public figure before him, he found out yesterday that there is nothing like a national crisis to distract from a personal indiscretion.

going to have a baby boy and today I'm back in the team. I feel as though I'm starting all over again and I just hope my first ball doesn't bounce twice.

The selectors, publicly committed to giving Warne's shoulder the steadiest of rehabilitations, hurriedly abandoned their caution following England's stunning fourth Test victory here on Tuesday. Leading 2-1, rather than 3-0, Australia are depending heavily on their spin supremacy to secure the series.

Warne will form an unusual leg-spin pairing with Stuart MacGill, on the legitimate theory that it is the attack that England will relish least. It will happen on the ground where, 12 months ago, Warne took his 300th Test wicket among figures of 11 for 109 against South Africa.

It is certain that Warne would not have played if Australia had won on Tuesday. Only a fortnight ago, two selectors said that his comeback should be delayed until the series in West Indies in the spring. Yet it is not entirely a measure born of panic.

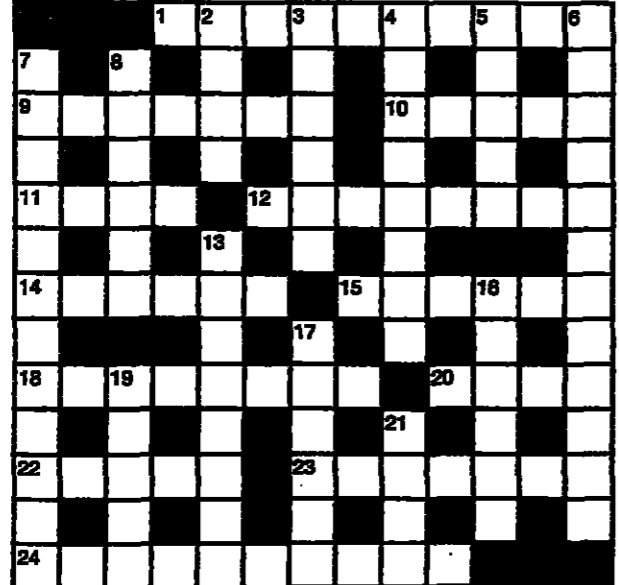
In these aims, it has already succeeded. Television and radio news bulletins were dominated by the return of Warne, rather than Australia's embarrassing loss, and the news concentrated some understandably hungover English minds when the players rose late here yesterday, before taking an evening flight to Sydney.

A man of Warne's record is entitled to believe that he is rather more than a psychological plant. Only the brave or foolish would discount the chance that he will decide the series, despite coming into this game with the unflattering background of eight wickets at 65 runs apiece in four first-class games since his comeback.



Warne's face is wreathed in smiles, in stark contrast to his last press conference appearance, after the announcement of his return to the Australia squad

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1602

- ACROSS 1 Title assistant C Doyle's Professor (10) 9 Electric fire bar (7) 10 Brown gold coin: Joe --, the French Bomber (5) 11 Weakness, sin (4) 12 Court attendance order (8) 14 Customary (6) 15 (Frustratedly) set up (6) 18 Strauss's Rosenkavalier, pre-emptor Augustus (8) 20 Jagged cut (4) 22 Roughhouse (5) 23 Of the ideal state (7) 24 Unconnected, incoherent (10)

SOLUTION TO NO 1601 ACROSS: 3 Provided 7 Menage 8 Uneasy 9 Dimmed 10 Sniper 11 High 13 Water 15 Mark 17 Garish 18 Random 19 Vestry 20 Craven 21 Royalist DOWN: 1 Gemini 2 Warmth 3 Perdita 4 Vintner 5 Diaspora 6 Daybreak 11 Hangover 12 Guernsey 13 Wastrel 14 Extract 15 Man Ray 16 Rhodes

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New Zealand excel... 44 Hollisakes lead roles... 44 bowled. Regular massages help to keep the muscles loose and minimise the migraines that he suffered regularly. 'One thing I've lacked in my career is patience and maybe all this has taught me that,' he said.

SHANE WARNE v ENGLAND Table with columns: Year, Overs, Runs, Wickets, Average, Best. Rows for 1993, 1994-95, 1997, and Overall.

hard-fought 0-0 draw between the two teams at Stamford Bridge, Leboeuf hauled Beckham to the ground as the United midfielder player skipped past him on a counter-attack. United's players were outraged and Leboeuf was fortunate not to be sent off.

Arguments like theirs may start because you can often say things in the heat of the moment when you are not properly relaxed and then regret them straight away. Then there is never the chance to say sorry and everything gets out of hand.

Leboeuf ends simmering feud

AS ROMANTIC reconciliations go, it might not quite be up there with Leontes and Hermione, but, in football terms, the news yesterday that David Beckham and Frank Leboeuf appear to have buried their differences and ended a simmering feud that seemed to be on the brink of boiling over every time Manchester United met Chelsea is about as heart-warming as it gets.

It emerged yesterday, however, that Leboeuf had waited for Beckham in the tunnel again after the match, but this time, instead of locking horns with him, he had apologised for the foul and insisted that it was nothing personal. Beckham accepted the apology and the pair shook hands. It was like peace in our time.

Things seemed to have got even worse on Tuesday night. Near the end of the

Players see red, page 48 Rash judgments, page 48

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Queen to be the Dome's first visitor

As Britain's Millennium celebrations at last begin to take shape, *The Times* begins a series looking at where we will all be 368 days from now. For Christians, the date is the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus. For computer

experts and the emergency services, the priority will be to combat the Y2K bug. For most of us, it will be an excuse for a party to end them all. *The Times* presents its own guide to the Millennium: 2000 Minus One.

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
Christians have attacked the Dome for failing to emphasise that it is celebrating the millennium of the faith, and adopting instead a "multifaith" approach. The Spirit Zone, which is being underwritten by the billionaire Hinduja brothers from Bombay, will still feature the numerous leading religions of Britain. The multifaith Lambeth Group, which is advising the Dome's creators and includes Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs, has agreed to let Christ have prominence. However, Darin Jewell, project manager for the Hinduja Foundation, said: "It is sur-

prisingly more multicultural than it is Christian. In the papers it seems to me that they made of point of really emphasising the Christian elements. In fact, there's a lot of multicultural elements in there." At the beginning of the zone, visitors will encounter the "Life of Christ", a clear account framed by large-scale projections of His most influential teachings and the Crucifixion. The "Living Witness" area of the zone will use historic people, places and objects to show how 2,000 years of Christian history have influenced society. The areas "Affirmations" and "Making Your Mark" will reflect on the ways Christianity and other faiths have sought to answer the question: "How shall I live?" Visitors will be invited to leave their own thoughts, perhaps by attaching messages to a tree or signing a book. An exhibition "Calendars" compares the yearly cycle of observance and festivals of different religions. A towering contemplation space at the centre of the zone offers the opportunity for quiet reflection. The zone has been redesigned to look like a giant insect, because the blueprint of a blunt pyramid was at risk falling into the Blackwall Tunnel.

SELLING RELIGION ON THE DOORSTEP

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged Church of England clergy to follow the example of Jehovah's Witnesses and spread the word by knocking on doors (Ruth Gledhill writes). Warning that the Church is always just a generation away from extinction, Dr George Carey said: "Don't be fobbed off by the view that... people don't want you to visit. There will, of course, be many disappointments when you door-knock, but there will be many unexpected joys too." Dr Carey, writing in *New Era, New Church*, a collection of more than 200 ideas on how churches can become more welcoming for the 2000 celebrations, also calls for shorter services. "Very few come to faith through intellectual argument. I have a theory that more people would come to church if they knew that the service wouldn't go on for more than one hour, preferably less."



No guarantees: some travel insurers will not cover lost baggage, delays or cancellations caused by the millennium bug

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND MARK HENDERSON

We regret your luggage is lost in a time warp

AIRCRAFT are unlikely to start falling from the skies when the millennium bug strikes, but luggage will be more likely than ever to go astray. Aviation experts are confident that most Western aircraft and air traffic control systems will survive the effects of the computer bug, but nobody is offering any guarantees about inconvenient glitches in other areas. Tests last week by the airport operator BAA found that baggage-handling systems, access cards and fire alarms all failed when the date was switched to 1/1/00, and travel insurers are already refusing to offer full cover for loss of baggage, flight delays or cancelled holidays caused by computer faults. BAA found that its baggage-handling system failed

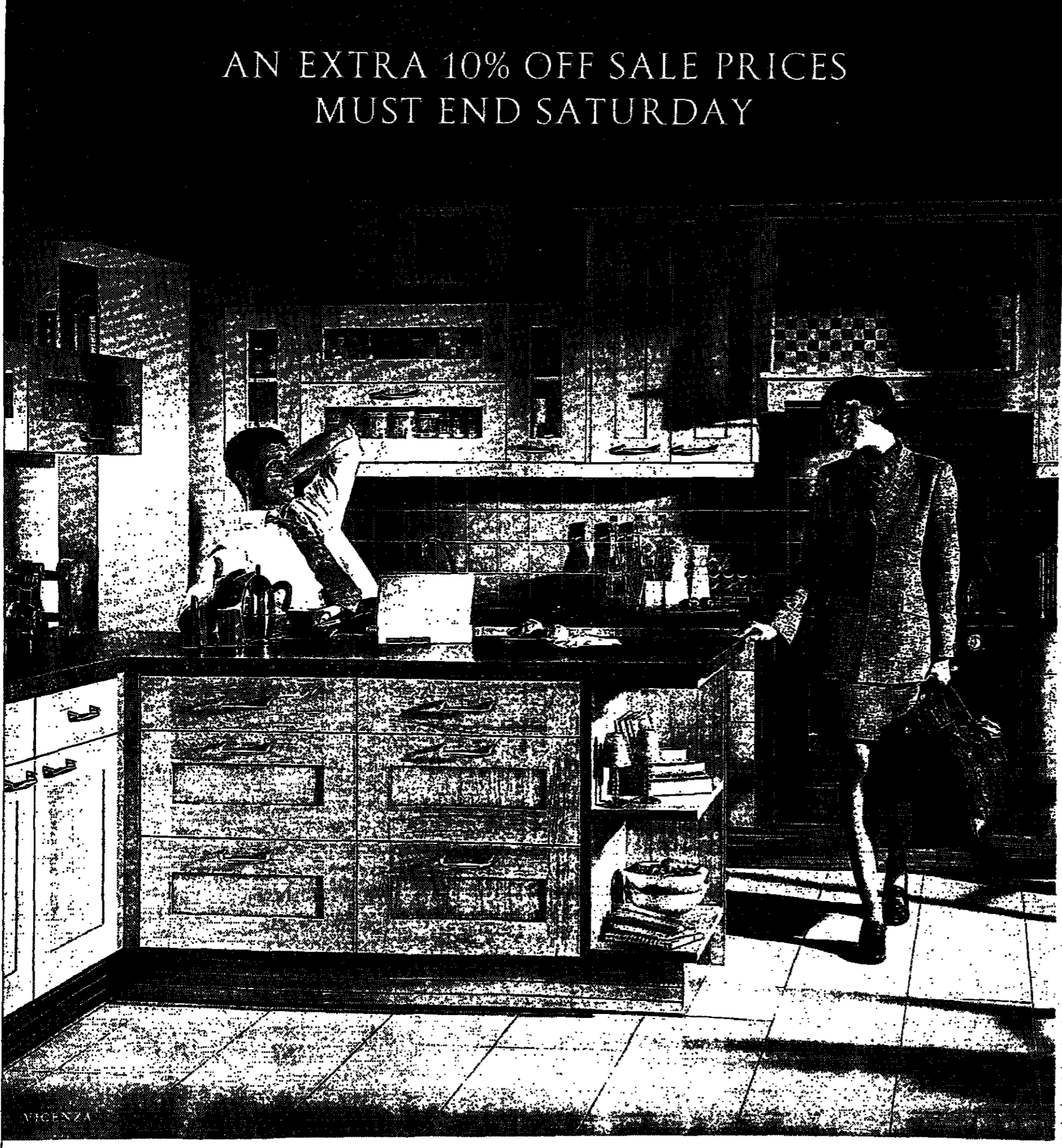
to recognise the new date and sent all bags down the "missor" chute. Baggage loss and holiday cancellations are among the most common causes of travel insurance payouts, accounting for £61 million of the £134 million paid out in 1996. Because airports and airlines are concentrating their anti-bug efforts on aircraft and air traffic control systems, insurance industry leaders say that full cover for such claims is likely to be offered only on

payment of an additional premium. Insurers will continue to provide cover for death or injury, but are likely to withdraw all cover for travellers using airports or airlines named on a worldwide blacklist of those whose computer systems are not sufficiently reliable. About a million Britons are expected to celebrate the turn of the millennium abroad. Aviation authorities and airlines are engaged in a £3 billion worldwide programme to

check and replace air traffic control systems and on-board computers. The United States is well ahead of other countries, although Britain and The Netherlands, Europe's two main centres for air traffic control, are well advanced in making systems compliant. The International Air Transport Association is conducting a global audit of all airport and aviation computer systems. Its report, to be published in spring, is expected to list those that have not updated their computer systems. British Airways is among several leading airlines that have said that they will not fly to any airport that fails the audit. A senior government official overseeing Britain's year 2000 compliance programme said: "In some Third World countries, it is not even clear that they have heard of the millennium problem, let alone done anything about it."

Firms will reap the benefit of foresight

By MARK HENDERSON
THREE far-sighted companies are to steal a march on their rivals after registering trademarks that give them exclusive rights to promote products as "millennium" brands. Allied Domecq, Unilever and Shell registered trademarks as long as 20 years ago that will allow them to exploit excitement about 2000 with "millennium" ranges of wines and spirits, toiletries and oil and petrol. Competitors will be banned from using the word "millennium" in product names; Patent Office rules let them use it in promotional literature if it refers to the millennium in general rather than a specific product. About 40 other firms have cornered the British market for millennium-based goods as various as roses, washing machines and pianos. Several applications are pending. There have also been unsuccessful bids, most of which failed because they sought to link products too closely to the celebrations. A move to register the trademark for all party-hats, balloons and fireworks was rejected for this reason. Geoff Sargent, of the Patent Office, said that canny firms had bought the millennium name long ago and new bids were now unlikely to succeed. "We can register a trademark if it's distinctive, such as protecting a company's right to call a range of products after the millennium. You can't register the word in itself, or stop rivals referring to the millennium at all." Nevertheless, the companies that had got in early had done well, he said. Experts believe the marques registered by Shell, Allied Domecq and Unilever will be worth millions of pounds.



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Pleas for Kosovo ceasefire ignored

BY TOM WALKER

FIERCE fighting erupted again in northern Kosovo yesterday as security forces set up positions in a village whose last Serb resident was killed by separatist ethnic Albanian guerrillas on Saturday.

The latest exchanges of fire were another setback for the international negotiator in Kosovo, William Walker, who helped to broker a new ceasefire after heavy clashes over Christmas.

Two British monitors, both former army officers, had helped to relieve tensions around the town of Podujevo. With Mr Walker, and American and French colleagues,

they had made the hazardous journey between front lines throughout Christmas, urging both sides to show restraint.

The flames of Kosovo's ethnic hatred are spreading from village to village, however, with the crucial northern highway between Pristina and Podujevo proving a tinderbox corridor to which the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), the police and the Yugoslav Army are happy to provide the occasional spark.

Mr Walker knows that his verification mission for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is treading a tightrope between a conflict it has some chance of



Serb police firing at guerrillas near Podujevo, where fighting flared at Christmas

managing and an all-out conflagration. Today he will travel to Montenegro to seek the support of President Djukanovic. Later in the week he will be in Washington, urging that more monitors be sent.

Yesterday's fighting was around the village of Obranca, where on Saturday four men shot dead a 74-year-old farmer. The KLA claimed he had

been warned not to threaten its fighters with his shotgun; local Serb authorities said it was a simple case of ethnic cleansing by guerrillas intent on clearing the Serbs out of villages on the strategic Podujevo road linking Kosovo with motorways to Belgrade.

"State organs are ready for a showdown with those who are endangering the integrity of

the country," said Zoran Andjelkovic, a former Sports Minister who now heads the Kosovo regional government.

Mr Walker said the situation could have been far worse, but for the monitors' efforts. He singled out two British officers, Major-General John Drewienkiewicz and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Ciaglinski, for praise.



Le Pen's rival ready to lead splinter party

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S ultra-right National Front will lurch towards an apparently inevitable split today when rebel leaders hand in a 14,000-signature petition that amounts to the founding act of a new but equally extreme party.

The result will almost certainly be the confrontation at next year's European elections of two Front lists, one led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, the other by his former ally, and now bitter enemy, Bruno Mégret.

President Chirac's centre-right coalition, which is likely to be the main beneficiary of the Front's implosion, will look on with glee today as M Mégret presents a petition calling for an extraordinary general meeting of the party in January.

M Le Pen, who expelled 13 members of the national council, including M Mégret, from his movement last week, refuses to countenance such a meeting, dismissing it as an act of treachery.

Comparing himself to Julius Caesar, he said he would "kill

Brutus before he kills me". Yet, with 14,000 signatures, the rebels have not only underlined the breadth of opposition to M Le Pen but also laid claim to his position as leader.

As the Front's statutes say that a meeting is obligatory if a fifth of the movement's members demand it, M Mégret argued that he has respected the rules while M Le Pen has not. The suave but no less extremist M Mégret will use January's conference to have himself elected president of the breakaway NF group.

Bruno Gollnisch, the Front's Secretary-General and a loyal follower of M Le Pen, said there would be further expulsions in the coming days, prompting accusations of a "purge" from his opponents.

Opinion polls published over the weekend show that M Mégret is capable of drawing about half the Front's vote which has been around 15 per cent in recent elections. The split would push the extremist movement to the edge of French public life.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Iraq 'will fire on British planes'

Nicosia: Iraq has raised the stakes in its confrontation with Britain and America by declaring it will fire on "enemy" planes violating its airspace (writes Michael Theodorou). The warning brought threats of retaliation from London and Washington, which have aircraft patrolling "no-fly" zones over north and south Iraq. On Saturday a Tornado in the south reported seeing anti-aircraft fire five miles away.

The Iraqi threat will increase US and British vigilance but is unlikely to cause much alarm. Iraq's limited ability to defend its skies was further undermined by Operation Desert Fox, when its air defence system was targeted before other sites were attacked. Baghdad also urged all Arab countries to flout the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Mob burns two alive

Freetown: Residents of Sierra Leone's edgy capital, living under the threat of a rebel assault, burnt alive two men they took for informers during a weekend peace demonstration, according to witnesses. The Government of President Kabbah, backed by West African intervention troops, tried to calm residents. Saturday's victims were caught by a crowd in Freetown's central business district and "necklaced" with blazing tyres. Witnesses said that a third captive was rescued and taken to a police station. (AFP)

Allies clash in Congo

Kampala: At least 38 soldiers were killed when Rwandan and Ugandan soldiers, deployed to help rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, fought each other, the Independent Monitor newspaper reported. An unnamed senior Ugandan military officer who has just returned from Congo said the exchange of fire between the two armies resulted from disagreement over who to support among the rival rebel groups which have been attempting to oust President Kabila since August 2, according to the paper. (Reuters)

Nobel cash for India

Calcutta: India's Nobel economics laureate, Amartya Sen, said he would use his prize money to set up a trust for education and health care. He made the announcement at an official function here to honour him. Apart from the prestige the Nobel prize confers, it is worth \$500,000. Mr Sen, who studied economics in Calcutta before going to Cambridge, where he is now Master of Trinity College, has done research on famines and advocates an active state role in welfare activities, including health and education. (Reuters)

Smallest octuplet dies



Houston: The smallest of the Chukwu octuplets - Chijindu Chidera, meaning "God Has My Life" - died from heart and lung failure, doctors at the Texas Children's Hospital here said. The baby, whose condition began to deteriorate significantly on Saturday afternoon, was the fifth child born to Nkem Chukwu and her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi, above. She weighed only 10.3oz at birth. The other seven infants - five girls and two boys - are expected to remain in a critical condition for several weeks. (AFP)

Turks renew attacks

Diyarbakir: Eighteen members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and one soldier were killed in clashes in southeastern Turkey, and fighting was continuing, an official statement said. The violence began after the Turkish Army began a sweep on Christmas Eve in the area of Mount Gabar, in Sirmak province on the border with Syria and Iraq, according to a statement issued here. The air force was providing support for the ground troops. (AFP)

Jews 'anti-Semitic'

Jerusalem: Ultra-Orthodox members of the Israeli parliament accused secular Jewish activists of fostering anti-Semitism in their campaign to end exemption from military service for religious Jews, and promised legal action. Ultra-Orthodox MPs of the Shas party have been particularly incensed by a poster campaign by a group known as Free Nation, which dubbed religious Jews exempted from military service as "evaders". (AFP)

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Alert for 'cowboy' skiers

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FRENCH ski resorts have called a meeting this week to an attempt to halt a spate of accidents attributed to dangerous behaviour on the slopes.

The meeting will be held in La Bresse, eastern France, where Guy Vascelaine, the Mayor, has called for gendarmes to be stationed on the pistes as part of a crackdown on wayward skiers.

Snowboarders are being designated as the main culprits ahead of the meeting, which will bring together police, councillors from ski resorts and monitors.

M. Vascelaine says snowboarders have been responsible for four serious accidents in eastern France over the past three days.

Skiing slope accidents increased by 17 per cent last year, according to figures released at the weekend. In all, 41,500 people were injured on French slopes, 32 of them fatally.



A snowboarder tumbles in the Alps, where rashness on the slopes is causing concern

Unequal partners gamble on unity

The euro is the child of northern thrift but a carefree South may be its ruin, Charles Bremner writes

IF ALL goes well, Europe's new single currency will harness the economies of 11 states, creating a dynamic bloc of 250 million people that will rival the commercial power of the United States.

However, even the strongest backers of the European Union's most ambitious project accept that pitfalls lie on the path from the euro's launch on New Year's Day to the goal of a thriving "Euro-land" that will eventually embrace almost all the continent, from Estonia to Portugal and Ireland to Cyprus.

Since the Maastricht treaty of 1992, which plotted the course to Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the project's managers have sought to limit the risks with rules to enforce fiscal rigour among the countries taking

part, but no one denies that EMU involves a leap into the unknown. A dose of faith is needed in order to be confident that the euro will weather potentially destructive forces.

The main one springs from the question of how a single monetary policy with a one-size-fits-all interest rate can suit the needs of disparate states each running their own economic policies.

The most cited fault line lies along the Mediterranean belt, dividing the hard-currency northern bloc, centred on Germany, from the historically more profligate southerners, Italy, Spain and Portugal. The framers of the Maastricht plan made no secret of their aim to limit the currency initially to the "sound money" northern bloc, eliminating early trouble from the tradi-



tionally debt-happy and volatile-currency south.

Thanks to austerity budgets and reforms, the "Club Med" south squeezed in, but the pessimists wonder how long it can avoid lapsing into the old habits. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, has already called for a softening of the "stability pact", which sets a limit to budget deficits. The fault line also runs to Ireland where the economy has grown by nearly 10 per cent this year, raising the spectre of inflation and bust.

The sceptics say tension with these "peripheral" regions is inevitable since the priority of the European Central Bank (ECB) when setting policy will be the euro's northern centre of gravity.

The most common nightmare runs like this: Recession bites in a large state, say Spain or Italy, while the northern bloc is enjoying stable growth. The ECB keeps interest rates high to meet the needs of the prospering economies, just when low rates are needed in the south, where boom has already turned to bust.

Unable to cut interest rates and gain advantage through

currency depreciation, the afflicted Government is caught in a downward spiral to depression. It cannot raise public spending by borrowing because of limits set in the stability pact, and it has no way of easing monetary policy.

This leaves two escape routes: the migration of workers or a transfer of funds into the afflicted economy from the outside. While this works in America, the politics, language differences and culture of Europe make it unlikely.

The outcome could be a political explosion, a surge in public spending in breach of the stability pact, and ultimately withdrawal or expulsion from the euro zone. Since EMU is irrevocable, this could not be achieved without approval for the whole currency bloc.

The gloomiest pessimists see the ingredients of war. Bernard Connolly, the economist at the European Commission who was sacked in 1995 for denouncing EMU, predicts that the central bank would be forced to ease monetary policy; and allow more inflation across all Euroland. Executive power for Euroland's economic government would be put in the hands of Germany and France and the errant governments would be whipped into line, he forecasts.

The supporters of EMU have many arguments to rebut the nightmare scenario and note that the Euroland economies have converged steadily since Maastricht and the launch of the currency will lock them closer in step.

The trouble with the theories on both sides is that they are based on hypothesis. Since no currency union on this scale has ever been attempted by independent states, the project remains a gamble.

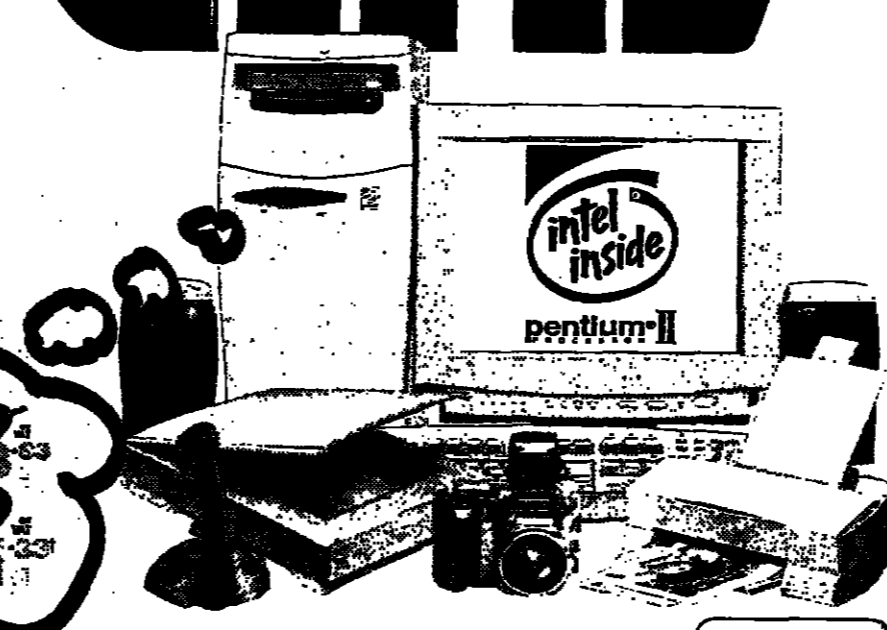
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Greens put caviare on their menu

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The new year treat for better-off Germans — a bowl of caviare next to the carp — may be threatened if the Green Party gets its way. To protect world sturgeon stocks a move is afoot to ban caviare imports. "A short-term halt is the very least we can do," says European parliamentarian Undine von Blottnitz. "In the long term we have to have regulation."

First target will be German airlines, which serve 11 tonnes of caviare a year to first-class passengers. German cruise ships dispense six kilos a day and they, too, will be on the hit list. A bit less caviare all round is not a tragedy. My bet is that an import ban will save not a single sturgeon — but it might attract a few votes.

The real significance of the initiative is that Greens, model pupils while the Social Democratic-Green Government was feeling its way into power, are beginning to assert themselves. The State Secretary in the Environment Ministry, a particularly hard-edged Green called Gila Altmann, wants to review motorway construction plans. This is not her departmental territory, but the Greens want to start scrapping motorway plans on pollution criteria.

The main challenge comes with a demand by the Environment Minister, the Green Jürgen Trittin, to accelerate the withdrawal from atomic energy. It was agreed by Social Democrats and Greens when they put together their Government that the Atomic Energy Law would be amended quickly. But Herr Trittin has prepared his draft quickly indeed and it, in effect, signals an end to all recycling of nuclear waste — a blow for Selfield and the French.

Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, is furious. Putting the draft law forward now undermines his negotiating position as he begins to bargain in earnest with the nuclear industry. Closing down atomic energy could be very costly — electricity supply companies are ready to take the Government to court for breach of contract. These milks have to be handled delicately. Herr Trittin, however, is possessed by revolutionary zeal. Before Christmas he sacked members of the atomic control commis-

sion and he intends replacing them with anti-nuclear specialists. The row hangs over the holiday like a dark cloud pregnant with rain.

Herr Schröder's uncertain leadership and his ideological row with Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, have deflected attention from the Government's essential instability: the presence of the Greens, mustering barely 7 per cent of popular support, but wanting to change consumer attitudes, industrial and energy policies, and interfere in that most intense of German relationships — the emotional linkage between car and driver.

The Lafontaine-Schröder battle snatches more attention, but the Greens want to start reproducing the Old Labour-New Labour struggle. And the Finance Minister's vision of a tightly regulated Europe, driven by tax-and-spend policies, puts into question much of British policy on Europe.

But it is the behaviour of the Greens that will determine this Government's future. At the moment it is reasonable to assume that Herr Schröder could serve two terms — the Christian Democrats will need that long to recover from Helmut Kohl's defeat.

But whether the Greens will last a second term is far from certain. Their meagre general election showing is hardly likely to be improved by a steady pressure to increase petrol taxes.

Herr Schröder's medium-term strategy may thus be to engineer a creeping divorce, offering in 2002 a junior partnership in the Government to a grateful, right-wing Christian Democratic Union.

The Greens sense this — hence their urgency to change what can be changed within four years.

Hunt for victims of Internet's Dr Death

By ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE police were in a race against the clock yesterday to trace customers of an Internet suicide service that sent cyanide capsules to people wishing to kill themselves.

Investigators examined hundreds of files and floppy disks seized at the home of a man alleged to have run the mail-order service, blamed for the death of a 24-year-old Tokyo woman.

The man, 27, who is said to have sold the potassium cyanide tablets through his personal home page on the Internet, apparently committed suicide himself earlier this month, according to police.

But he had arranged at least seven deliveries to customers, including the woman who died of cyanide poisoning on December 15, police said.

The names of both have been withheld by police. A third death involved a 21-year-old Tokyo woman who took a lethal dose of sleeping pills in July, though she had also ordered the cyanide.

The saga came to light after the second woman died this month. The self-styled "Dr Death" — a teacher who trained as a pharmacist — had set up his page in May offering delivery of poison for between £150 and £250.

Police found a parcel in the first woman's home, along with a mobile telephone number. Over the phone, the man allegedly acknowledged to police that he had sent six capsules to the woman. He apparently poisoned himself after learning that she had died, police said.

The names of six other customers were found when police examined the dead man's bank records. One of them remains unaccounted for.

Vietnam seeks priestly help in war on drugs

Vietnam has an escalating drugs problem and in the past two weeks at least a thousand traffickers have been arrested and large quantities of heroin, opium and marijuana have been confiscated.

Only six months ago the country had no significant problem with illegal drugs, according to Catholics working for the "unofficial" Church. The situation is now so bad, however, that the Secretary-General of the central Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee last week appealed to his Catholic enemies in a confidential meeting to help to overcome the new scourge.

The drugs are believed to come from Laos, Thailand and the Golden Triangle. Earlier this year a senior police officer in Hanoi was jailed for involvement in trafficking.

"Drugs have exploded through the high schools and the universities," said a Catholic priest. "The students have no background in their intellectual and moral life, and no ability to resist temptation."

The appeals by the party to Catholic priests and Buddhists — whom they normally spend their time harassing — is an extraordinary admission that the Government no longer has the moral authority to handle the problem.

This desperation appears to

Communism is using religion to tackle a growing scourge, writes David Watts

explain why some pagodas have been allowed to restore their buildings; why Catholics were this year allowed to celebrate Christmas more actively than usual and to mark the 199th anniversary of the appearance of a vision of the Virgin Mary; and why the authorities have not completely ruled out a visit by the Pope.

"The Government knows that Buddhists and Catholics can help with moral development, because this is a very dangerous time for young people," the priest said.

Tich Quang Do, under house arrest in Thanh Minh pagoda since his recent release after five years in a Hanoi jail for demanding religious freedom, said the Government

knows it needed help in dealing with accelerating unemployment and the slowing of foreign investment. "Externally there is pressure from foreign governments, and human rights organisations demand

our freedom to worship and our release," he said. "Religion is rooted deep in the human heart, so the Communists will fail to destroy religion. According to the Lord Buddha, even if you have everything materially you have some suffering in your heart. That suffering only religion can resolve."

A truth, apparently, that even government officials now acknowledge and some are attending the pagoda secretly.

"Even secret policemen come here to pray to Lord Buddha," he beamed. "They either come secretly or they send their wives and their children to pray for them."

It was the secret policemen who prevented a visit by United Nations officials, resulting in a negative assessment of the state of religion at a time when the country is desperately seeking worldwide acceptance. They often prevent visits to this charismatic 81-year-old, who has been jailed three times since 1975 for a total of 18 years, including ten years' internal exile.

"We are very unfortunate people to live under the dictatorial regime," he said. "You cannot tell what it is like to live without freedom. Only we can know how valuable freedom is."

Road ahead, page 44



Pro-democracy activists carry pictures of Chinese dissidents on a march to the Xinhua news agency in Hong Kong yesterday. They handed out a statement demanding the release of Zhang Shuguang, the trade unionist who was jailed for ten years.

Chinese imprison fourth dissident

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday jailed a veteran labour activist for ten years for telling an American government-funded radio station about rural unrest.

The sentencing of Zhang Shuguang, in a special session of the Huaihua intermediate court, represents the fourth time in a week that a dissident has received a lengthy sentence. Last week three others, including the leading human rights activist Xu Wenli, were jailed for more than ten years for trying to form the China Democratic Party.

Zhang, jailed for seven years for his role in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations that started in Tiananmen Square, was accused of "illegally providing intelligence to overseas enemy organisations and people". The 45-year-old has been in custody since July for trying to set up a pressure group to help jobless workers. The tens of millions of labourers laid off in Beijing's reform of money-losing state-run enterprises are viewed by the Chinese leadership as a threat to stability.

President Jiang Zemin has twice in the past two weeks said that all threats to stability would be "resolutely nipped in the bud". Soon afterwards the arts and entertainment industries were targeted by decrees threatening harsh punishments for those guilty of "inciting to subvert state power".

Khmer Rouge chiefs 'must face war crimes trial'

FROM CAROLINE GLUCK IN PHNOM PENH

KHMER Rouge leaders who defected to the Government at the weekend may face a war crimes trial for their part in the Pol Pot regime under which more than a million Cambodians died.

Khieu Samphan, the former nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, and Nuon Chea, the group's chief ideologue, said in letters released by government officials at the weekend that they

had given up years of life in the jungle to join the Government and strengthen peace, stability and reconciliation in Cambodia.

But according to the New York-based Human Rights Watch, no national reconciliation can ever take place in Cambodia until the Khmer Rouge leaders have been put on trial.

"If the Government wants to pardon these two once they have been brought to trial before an independent international court on charges of crimes

against humanity and the Cambodian public has heard all the evidence against them, that is their prerogative," said Sidney Jones, Asia director of Human Rights Watch. "But to allow these men to return to society as if one of the worst massacres of the 20th century never took place — that's unthinkable."

Khieu Samphan became the public face of the intensely secretive Khmer Rouge when he signed the Paris peace accords in 1991, officially ending Cambodia's protracted civil war. Nuon

Chea was officially deputy — Brother Number Two — to Pol Pot.

The military commander of the town of Pailin, where the two men are being held, said they would not be allowed to travel to the capital until the Government had given assurances that they would be sent abroad for trial.

"These people are elderly men. Why not let them live peacefully for the rest of their lives?" a source said. Pailin is nominally under government control but is run by friends of the two men.



Khieu Samphan, left, Nuon Chea and Pol Pot in 1986

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It's the grand old Duke of talk... on the sea, a thwarted career and duty

The Duke of Edinburgh proved an unexpectedly witty and informal chat-show guest, says Libby Purves

Despite odd aberrations, there is a well-oiled drill for royal interviews. Make the approach (via dense layers of deferential management), fax the questions. Climb into suit, go to Palace, record answers, leave by the Privy Purse door. Occasionally, the royal may be brought into one of the cleaner studios of Broadcasting House; but one to One is the rule.

What you do not do is invite the Duke of Edinburgh on *Midweek* to mix it with chat-show guests, elbows on the table. But we did. He came. And, hand on heart, I can mention that he showed more good humour at 9am than some I could mention.

It was taped, because of Christmas, but when a live show does this the convention still remains: no over-recording, no retakes, no chance to take out false starts or hostile silences, no agreed questions.

Prince Philip came, on human terms, to tell the story that we asked for. We had been drawn by the fact that he has served for 50 years as a trustee of the National Maritime Museum.

A prolonged term as a figurehead is not unusual, but as a newish trustee myself I know that he is no figurehead. He comes to his job, he proposes. He has done this for half a century, while Navy and merchant marine have shrunk and technology exploded. More over, on the personal front it is nearly 47 years since the young Prince Philip, enjoying his first command in *HMS Maggie*, heard that George VI was dead and came home, perforce, for his wife's accession: beached, scuppered, a career over. We wanted the tale of the Duke and the Sea. Add to that the fact that in three months the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich opens 16 new galleries in its vast, glass-roofed Neptune

Court and it seemed logical to invite the oldest trustee. "He won't know how talk shows work," said doubters. "Royals are always the sole interviewees."

Hadn't thought of that. Never mind. We had mixed the bag by inviting two seafarers in their twenties: Shell's Second Officer Deborah Harrison, who was shot during a gunfight with armed robbers aboard her tanker in Brazil, and Lieutenant Jack London, who landed his Sea Harrier jet after the canopy exploded at 40,000ft over the Gulf. We had been stalking them both as guests for months. The odd report that he showed more good humour at 9am than some I could mention.

It was a breeze. We started with wish-lists for the museum and the problems of displaying technical change. Harrison is a passionate engineer and the Duke of Edinburgh has spent 50 years lobbying for modern technical artefacts. Arms were waved in mutual enthusiasm about turbines and analogue transmitters.

Coming to the Duke himself, I started with a formal-ish mention of the fact that his first sea voyage was the escape from Greece at one year old on *HMS Calypso*. This was briskly interrupted by "Hm, don't actually remember it, funny enough. But go on, if you must, mention the orange box." Er, what orange box? Did you go to sea in one? "No, it's that they didn't have a cot. I was put in an orange box."

His affinity with the sea developed at Gordonstoun, and is, accordingly, unselfish. Love the sea? Pah! "I don't think I ever thought of the sea as something to like. It's cold and wet. Sometimes it looks spectacular and you see wonderful sights... though after four years on the morning watch I got fed up with the sunrise. I can tell

you. Then there are moments when the sea is bloody."

The two younger seafarers nodded. This guy was one of them, talking about gales and throwing up. "Sometimes," he said, "you feel this is the only sort of life and ten minutes later you're praying for death." Yet he had to leave it in 1952. Admiral Lord Lewin, fellow-midshipman and lifelong friend, was First Sea Lord during the Falklands conflict. He once said that Philip could have got that far himself. "Well, that's his opinion, not mine," said the Duke dryly. But did he regret leaving?

"Well... I was in the Med. I did a year as First Lieutenant, then went in command of *Maggie*. I had her for just a year when the King died. There was no question about going back. I had to do that. But at that time I hadn't thought that that was going to be the end of a naval career. It sort of crept up on me... but it's no good regretting things. It didn't happen. I've been doing other things instead."

The pleasure of these casual, shortish, five-ish talk-show interviews, without the pressure and defensiveness of longer grillings, is that small truths emerge. The accident of history that put a 27-year-old at the table at Greenwich with admirals and grandees was a lucky one. From records and memories, it is clear that the new kid stirred things up. He got them to mix paintings thematically with documents, uniforms, models and objects. He wanted clearer labels than the 1940s norm. He came home from foreign tours with ideas.

As a young father in 1955, he advocated the first hands-on gallery for children. He must have been, I ventured, 40 years younger than the rest of the board. "Ha! Now I'm 40 years older... but I don't think that any of us felt any sort of age division or generation gap. When you sit round the table talking about something everybody's interested in, you forget about differences because you're all concentrating on the object in hand." This



Dedicated to the navy tradition: the Duke of Edinburgh has now served as a trustee of the National Maritime Museum for 50 years

principle was then demonstrated. Arguing about the importance of marine engines or hammocks, any obstruction of years and deference vanished. Lieutenant London told of flying the Harrier on to the carrier with no lid on; HRH agreed that carriers always look too damn small from the air. Deborah Harrison explained why she, a female

officer, protected her cadets and took the bullets in Brazil. "It was my watch. I was in charge." The Duke nodded, affirming a shipboard ethic centuries older than both of them. "It's not merely an extension of civil life. If you go to sea, you're in a different environment so you have to function and relate to people in a different way. It's not

like any other profession. You are all liable to the consequences whatever happens to the ship," he said. A few hundred yards from us lay Lord Nelson's jacket, with bullet-hole. Deborah had had a look on her way in: "I thought 'Gush, I've got a boiler-suit just like that.'" The Duke asked after her wounds and observed that Nelson's bullet, with

the gold braid still on it, lies at Windsor. The talk turned to defence and sea trade and whether the perspective of the centuries has anything to say to the future. Could have gone on all day, really.

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1998: the year of grey, glamour,

This has been a year of startling sartorial contrasts. Dominated by grey at street level, it will nevertheless be remembered for the return of glamour. Here Deborah Brett asks the world's leading fashion cognoscenti to nominate their best and worst memories of the year, and Lisa Armstrong reflects on the increasingly powerful pact between designers and showbusiness personalities



SARAH DOUKAS
Head of Storm Model Management

Best: All those wonderful peshminas (above) — two fingers to all the grey.

Worst: Babies as fashion party accessories (left); it's really unfair on the little mites, they're too young and their mothers should know better.



AURELIA CECIL

Style PR

Best: Kate Moss dyeing her hair pink (above) for the Versace Spring/Summer '99 show, declaring there was too much grey in the world.

Worst: The continuation of nighties and cardies as evening wear, and thin is still too fashionable (left).

KARL LAGERFELD

Designer

Best and worst: Any fashion is always comprised of a brilliant element and a terrible one. The worst development of 1998 fashion was metropolitan sloppiness. On the other hand, when it's properly done it's OK — and you could say that if it exists, it has a meaning to someone.

MARIO TESTINO

Photographer

Best: The return to glamour.

Worst: Changing all the fashion show schedules. It's made everyone's life a nightmare.

TARA PALMER-TOMKINSON



Socialite

Best: I love the current emphasis on comfort, especially my New Balance trainers, and I have rediscovered colour.

Worst: I'm heading towards an "I don't care what I put on" look at the moment. I'm not obsessing about labels any more.



CLEMENTS AND RIBEIRO

Suzanne Clements and Inacio Ribeiro, design duo

Best: The return of opulence and luxury, the rise of embroidery. We also loved the intellectual concoctions of Comme des Garçons (above left). Red looked right and we loved our own Scottish knits.

Worst: The sudden fame of Jeremy Scott (above right). We also hated the "soggy" look: shapeless tunics over shapeless long skirts paired with abominable sexless mules.

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This was the year in which a new verb entered colloquial English. Stylish, rich and confined to London for much of the year, Nicole Kidman showed the ladies who shop how retail therapy is really done by conceiving a passionate relationship with fashion and then buying all of it — in multiples. Being "Kidmanned" has since become one of the more gratifying financial experiences a shopkeeper can have.

This happy conjunction of actress and frock is apt for a year in which the Hollywoodisation of fashion became even more apparent. The Oscars, once so diverting for what might kindly be described as the imaginative way in which the audience interpreted black tie, were wall-to-wall good taste, thanks to the celebrity stylists.

This new breed, who steamrollered into Hollywood in the mid-Nineties, has since trained its clients so rigorously that the likes of Gwynnie (Paltrow), Minnie (Driver) and Winnie (Ryder) have graduated summa cum laude in the fashion stakes. In fact, Paltrow emerged as the year's style icon — the first time that an actress, rather than a model or a socialite, has done so in more than a decade. And if the Donna Karan wardrobe she wore in *Great Expectations* garnered better reviews than the script, well, that's fashion showbusiness.

The increasingly cynical pact between designers and showbusiness personalities may be starting to get in the way of genuine design innovation (so



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what if the collection stank? Demi and Patsy were at the show). But there is no doubt that the special relationship has given fashion a higher profile than ever among that section of the public who would never previously have known their Halston from their Hussein Chalayan.

The deal cuts both ways. If a front-row celebrity can propel a show, however bad, on to the front pages, the right dress can do the same for a celebrity, however minor (see Emma Noble in Julien Macdonald on the front pages of most British papers last summer). It merely requires sheer cheek.

Hollywood wasn't the only subject of a makeover. Geri Halliwell and Camilla Parker Bowles both tweaked their images to varying degrees. Katharine Hamnett did a volte-face from Labour and joined the

Tories, and Fendi, the Rod Stewart of Italian fashion houses (all flash and dubious, ageing charm), was rescued from the style doldrums thanks to a little cashmere clutch bag called the Baguette. Quietly brooding on that success, Chanel launched the 2005, a futuristic-looking bag that apparently makes an excellent pillow.

If Hollywood ensured fashion a leadership role on the 24-hour Entertainment Channel, the art and fashion exhibition at the Hayward Gallery endowed it with a certain intellectual validity — and by the time Alexander McQueen showed his collection in London in October, famously hiring a model with artificial legs, even the kind of critics who normally save their observations for art galleries began to understand the power of the fashion show.

Hollywood may

trivialise, but it also showed designers a way out of their obsession with strung-out models. President Clinton's upbraiding of so-called "heroin chic" at the start of the year actually caught the trend on the warne. The announcement from an American agency in the spring that it was suing one of its (soon to be former) models, Amy Wesson, for unprofessional conduct was the cue for a slew of shocking stories about how models, bombed out on smack, have been manipulated by an industry obsessed with only two things: great pictures and the bottom line.

In fact those sad, hollow-eyed, anorexic-looking girls who had been propped up against cushions for last year's shoots were already being replaced by this year's models: the wholesome pretty sirens who have become the modelling world's new stars: Carmen Kass, Aurelie Claudel and Giselle. And if most people haven't heard of them, that's because 1998 saw the supermodel-as-household-name laid to rest (don't cry for them, the top ones still earn fortunes).

The penchant for glamour continued at the shows. John Galiano commanded a platform at Paris's Gare du Nord in July for his Dior couture show, importing extravagant props, including a steam train, on to which were pinned the world's costliest models in some of the world's costliest clothes. He allegedly spent £1 million on the 20-minute event (one-and-three-quarter hours if you count the delay).

One would never have guessed that

Last year's sad, hollow-eyed models have been replaced by wholesome, pretty sirens

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